
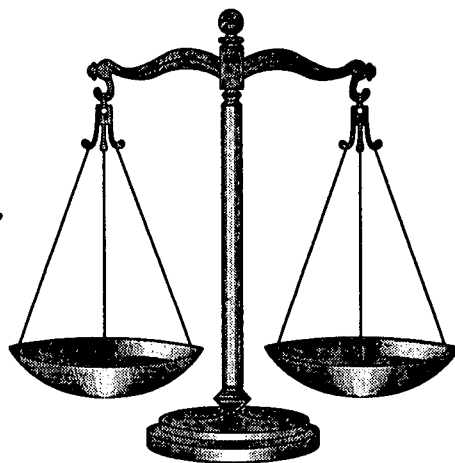


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MARYLAND
JUDICIARY



1995-96 

*ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MARYLAND
JUDICIARY
1995-1996*



*Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 974-2186
Maryland Relay Service (TT/Voice)
1-800-735-2258*

On the Cover

The Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building

The Courts of Appeal Building was dedicated to
Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy on June 3, 1996.

*Report prepared by the
Administrative Office of the Courts
Circuit Court Management Services*

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Letter of Transmittal

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
(410) 974-2141**

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
GEORGE B. RIGGIN, JR.

DEPUTY STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
FRANK BROCCOLINA



October 22, 1996

This is the twentieth Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary which includes the forty-first Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The report covers Fiscal Year 1996 beginning July 1, 1995 and ending June 30, 1996.

This report provides data on the operation and functions of the Maryland courts. It presents statistical information on both individual courts and an overview of the Maryland judicial system as a whole. It is hoped that this report will provide a ready source of information to better understand Maryland's court structure and operations.

The past year has been notable for the many technology projects which have come into full production. The AOC installed a pilot circuit court case management system which will migrate to all jurisdictions throughout the State. The new system includes Differentiated Case Management (DCM) which was mandated by Court Rule. In addition, a pilot land records optical imaging project was installed for similar state-wide application. These and other technology projects exemplify the degree to which the Judiciary depends on automation to sustain its productivity and to offset workload increases.

Fiscal Year 1996 was also notable in that it marked the final full year that our leader, Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy, guided us through the many daily challenges facing Maryland courts. Judge Murphy's contributions over the past 29 years, as Chief Judge of both appellate courts, have been nothing short of remarkable. His commitment to modern and efficient court administration places him among the top jurists in our state's history. He will be sorely missed due to his mandatory retirement which occurred on October 9, 1996.

In a similar vein, The District Court saw the departure of Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney, its first and only Chief Judge since the court's inception in 1971, due to his mandatory retirement on September 17, 1996.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is indebted to clerks of the appellate courts, the circuit courts of the counties and Baltimore City, and to clerks of the District Court of Maryland for their invaluable assistance in providing the statistics on which most of this report is based. My thanks to them and to all those whose talents contributed to the preparation of this publication.



A handwritten signature of George B. Riggini, Jr. in dark ink, written in a cursive style.

George B. Riggini, Jr.
State Court Administrator

FAX NUMBER: (410) 974-2169
Maryland Relay Service (TT/Voice) 1-800-735-2258

Introduction

Robert C. Murphy
CHIEF JUDGE
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1699



October 1, 1996

The 20th Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary covers Fiscal Year 1996 which began July 1, 1995 and concluded June 30, 1996.

As I approach the mandatory retirement age after twenty-four years as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, I look back with the greatest pride upon the numerous enlightened and progressive achievements at all court levels made possible only by the dedication and hard work of the judges and their supporting non-judicial personnel.

George Riffin, the State Court Administrator and head of the Administrative Office of the Courts, has brought his considerable administrative and managerial expertise to bear in support of the common goal to more effectively serve the public in all Judicial Branch operations. He has been a mainstay in the field of modern day judicial administration in furtherance of his statutory responsibility to act on behalf of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals who is the overall administrative head of the Judicial Branch of government. Under the State Court Administrator, the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts provides professional administrative support in the areas of human resources, records management, automation, and general fiscal and budgetary expertise. In like vein, a number of our courts of general jurisdiction — the circuit courts, one in each county and Baltimore City — have trial court administrators who have provided great support on behalf of the adjudicatory function of the judges and their clerical component.

The administrative staff of the District Court of Maryland continues to demonstrate its great worth to that unified, centrally administered trial court, acting under the peerless direction of its Chief Judge in the adjudication of its over 2,000,000 filings annually.

The administrative judges of both the circuit and District courts are the day-to-day operating heads of their respective trial courts and discharge their onerous responsibilities with the utmost skill, *albeit* without additional compensation.

The Chief Judge of the State's intermediate appellate court carries an awesome administrative burden in disposing of the ever increasing number of pre-decision motions, in scheduling pre-hearing conferences between the litigants and their lawyers, not to mention the work involved in disposing of the flood of appeals in that court year after year.

The Conference of Circuit Judges comprises the eight Circuit Administrative Judges, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and eight judges elected by their peers from their respective circuits. Together with its elected chair, the Conference has provided a large measure of guidance to all circuit court judges in the operation of their courts.

October 1, 1996
Page Two

The Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference, consisting of 17 judges from the various court levels, are elected by their peers. The Committee considers matters coming before it between plenary sessions of the annual Maryland Judicial Conference and is charged with submitting recommendations for the improvement of the administration of justice in all Maryland courts.

The Maryland Judicial Conference, which consists of all the judges in our trial and appellate courts, keeps abreast of judicial developments throughout the State and country and provides valuable insight into all facets of Judicial Branch operations.

The Judicial Institute of Maryland is engaged in educating, on a continuous basis, our newest and veteran judges through a series of seminars on subjects of extreme importance to all judges.

The State Board of Law Examiners and its appendage, the Character Committees of the eight judicial circuits, the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Clients' Security Trust Fund, and the Attorney Grievance Commission — all adjuncts of the judiciary — have performed throughout the years in a most admirable and exemplary manner and deserve the praise of all citizens.

The Maryland legislature has been most supportive of the Judicial Branch throughout my tenure as Chief Judge and is deserving of our grateful appreciation for its service to us.

The Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts, created by statute and chaired by James Cromwell of Montgomery County, is completing its year-long study of the court system and will shortly make its recommendations for change to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Court of Appeals.

The flood of mass tort cases, particularly those involving asbestos and lead paint, have put a very large strain on the ability of trial and appellate courts to dispose of these all important matters.

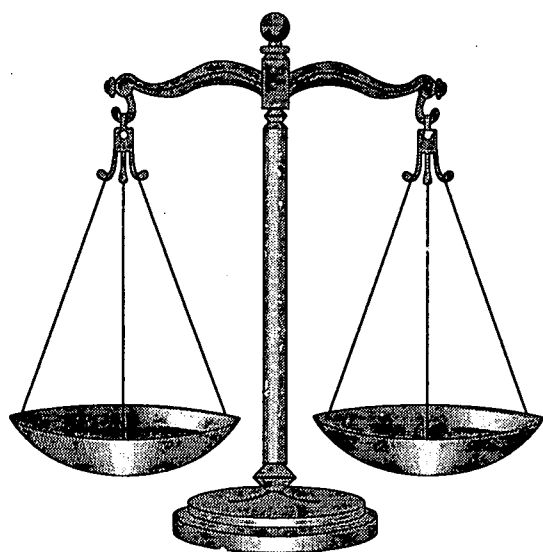
The installation of our Differentiated Case Management system in our circuit courts has added a new dimension to our ability to better manage the firm scheduling of pre-trial and trial dates and thus to avoid undue delay and inconvenience to litigants and their lawyers.

For my own part, it has been a great privilege to have served as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for these past twenty-four years.



Robert C. Murphy
Chief Judge

*JUDICIAL
REVENUES
AND
EXPENDITURES*



Judicial Revenues and Expenditures



In Fiscal Year 1996, state and local costs to support the operations of the Judicial branch of government were approximately \$207.7 million. The Judicial branch consists of the Court of Appeals; the Court of Special Appeals; the circuit courts; the District Court of Maryland; the circuit court clerks' offices; the Administrative Office of the Courts; the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Court of Appeals; the State Board of Law Examiners; the Maryland State Law Library; and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities. There were 250 judicial positions and approximately 3,600 non-judicial positions in the Judicial branch as of June 30, 1996. The State-funded Judiciary operates on a program budget and expended \$154,615,857 in Fiscal Year 1996.

The two appellate courts and their respective clerks' offices are funded by two programs. The circuit court program contains the compensation, travel, and educational costs for circuit court judges which totaled \$21,987,465, and the costs to operate the circuit court clerks' offices of \$43,953,630, all of which totaled \$65,941,095. The largest program is the State-funded District Court which expended \$72,028,525. The Maryland Judicial Conference contains funds for continuing judicial education and Conference activities. Remaining programs fund the Administrative Office, the Maryland State Law Library, the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the State Board of

Judicial Branch Personnel in Profile

Judicial Personnel

Court of Appeals	7
Court of Special Appeals	13
Circuit Courts	132
District Court	98

Non-Judicial Personnel

Court of Appeals	29
Court of Special Appeals	61
District Court	1,230
Administrative Office of the Courts	184.5
Court-Related Offices	
State Board of Law Examiners	6
Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure	3
State Law Library	10
State Reporter	1
Circuit Courts-Local Funding	878.2
Circuit Courts	1,161.0

Total **3,813.7***

*Includes allocated, temporary, and contractual positions.

Law Examiners, the State Reporter, and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.

The Attorney Grievance Commission and the Clients' Security Trust Fund are supported by assessments paid by lawyers entitled to practice in Maryland. These supporting funds are not included in the Judicial budget.

The figures and tables show the State revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 1996. With the exception of three special funds, all revenues are remitted to the State's

general fund. The Land Records Improvement Fund, created by statute effective in Fiscal Year 1992, permits a surcharge by circuit court clerks for recording land instruments. The fund is used for essential land records automation and equipment to improve land records operations in the clerks' offices. The second special fund is the Victims of Crime Fund, also created by statute effective Fiscal Year 1992. The source of the funds are additional costs assessed in criminal cases, a portion of which are to be remitted to this fund to establish

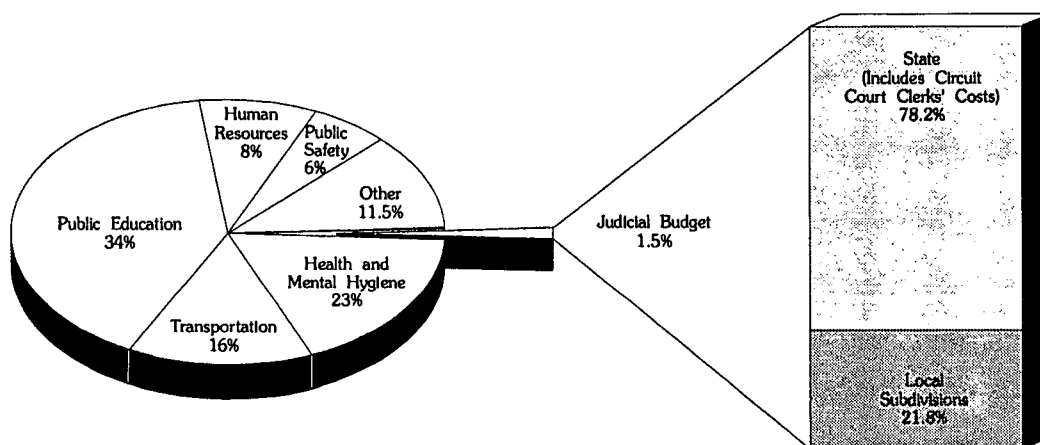
programs that provide victims and witness services. The third special fund is the State Transfer Tax. Prior to Fiscal Year 1993, State Transfer Tax was deposited into the general fund. During Fiscal Year 1996, the circuit court clerk offices collected State Transfer Tax totaling \$65,613,820. Shown on the following tables is the total revenue collected by the circuit court clerks in Fiscal Year 1996 for court related and non-court related activities. A total of \$33,369,537 was collected for commissions on land records transactions, State licenses, court costs, and for criminal injuries compensation. In addition, the clerks' offices remitted \$153,332,741 to local governments for recordation taxes, licenses, and court fines. An additional \$2,876,415 was col-

lected for the Land Records Improvement Fund, \$123,713 was collected for the Victims of Crime Fund, and \$129,153 was collected for the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund. The District Court remitted \$63,199,502 in fees, fines, and costs to the State general fund. An additional \$6,015,342 was collected for various special funds (\$3,973,835 for the Law Enforcement Training Fund; \$1,462,535 for the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund; and \$578,972 for the Victims of Crime Fund).

The total State budget was approximately \$14.7 billion in Fiscal Year 1996. The illustration reflects that the State-funded Judicial budget consumes about 1.5 percent of the entire State budget. Other expenditures of the circuit courts come from local appropriations

from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. These appropriations were approximately \$45.3 million in Fiscal Year 1996. Revenues from fines, forfeitures and certain appearance fees are returned to the subdivisions, primarily for the support of the local court library. Other court-related revenues collected by the circuit courts comes from fees and charges in domestic relations matters and service charges in collecting non-support payments.

The chart illustrating the contributions by the State and local subdivisions to support the Judicial branch of government, shows that the State portion accounts for approximately 78.2 percent of all costs, while the local subdivisions account for 21.8 percent.

STATE FUNDED PORTION OF JUDICIAL
EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996FUNDING SOURCES FOR
JUDICIAL BRANCH

State Funded Judicial Budget

General Revenues*

Program	Actual FY 1994	Actual FY 1995	Actual FY 1996
Court of Appeals	\$ 74,034	\$ 95,423	\$ 118,208
Court of Special Appeals	101,910	115,900	114,291
Circuit Courts	**44,074,569	**33,923,853	33,369,537
District Court	54,526,942	63,165,087	63,199,502
Administrative Office of the Courts	***1,016,242	***1,064,336	857,506
State Board of Law Examiners	578,122	613,484	613,665
TOTAL	\$100,371,819	\$98,978,083	\$98,272,709

*Please refer to the narrative for an explanation of the revenues. In addition, \$2,876,415 was remitted to the Land Records Improvement Fund, \$702,685 to the State's Victims of Crime Fund, and \$1,591,688 to the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund.

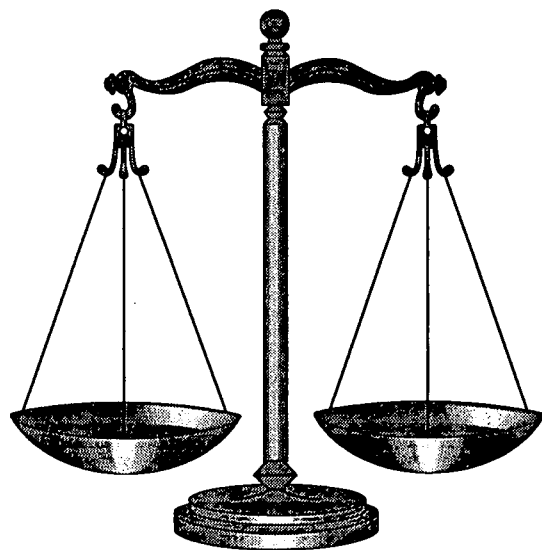
**Prior to 1993, State Transfer taxes were included in General Fund revenue. Beginning in 1993, State Transfer taxes were allocated to a special fund. State Transfer taxes were \$65,613,820 for FY 1996.

***These funds were collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts through administration of the Federal Child Support Enforcement Agreement.

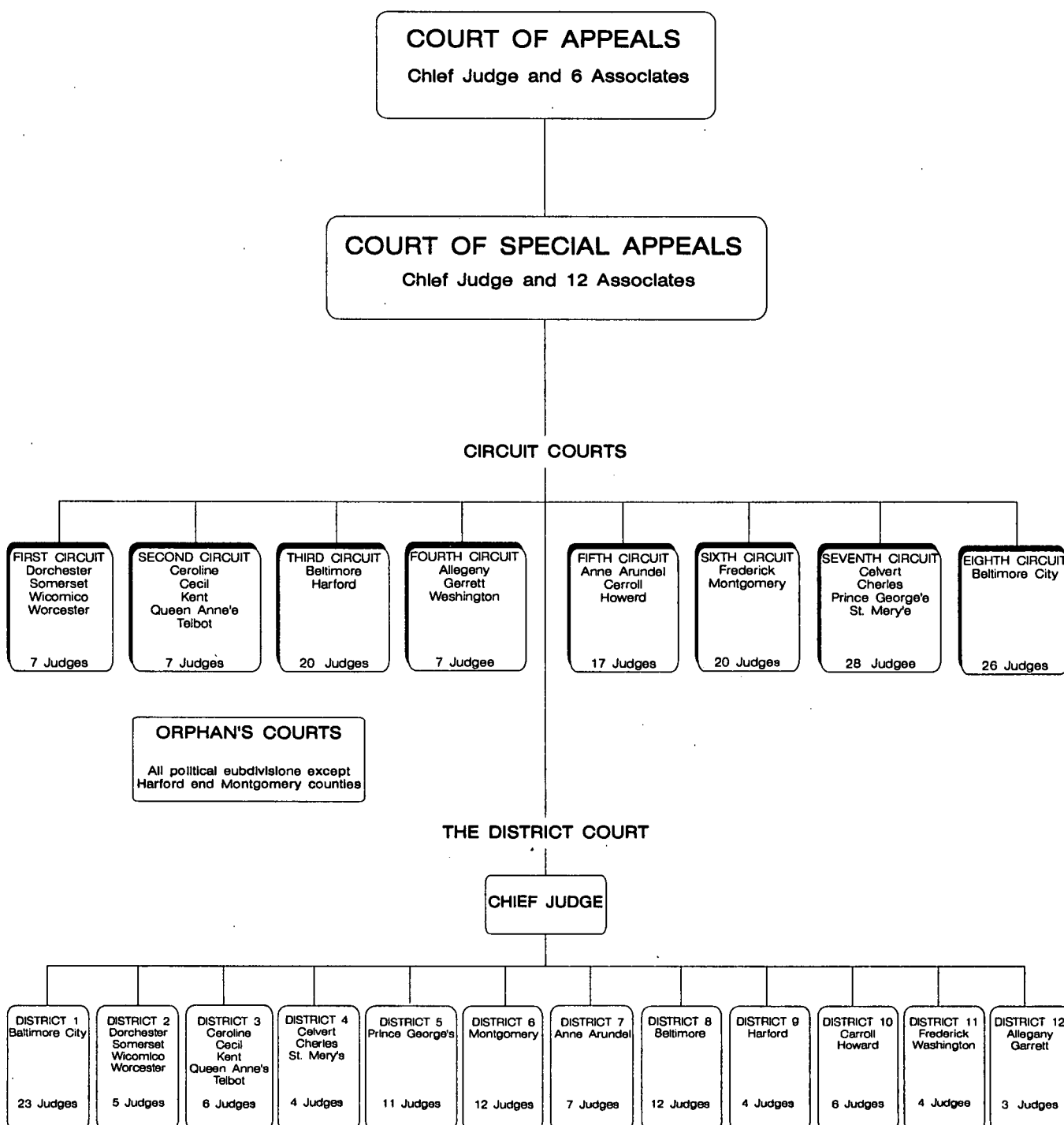
Expenditures

Program	Actual FY 1994	Actual FY 1995	Actual FY 1996
Court of Appeals	\$ 2,449,211	\$ 2,532,578	\$ 2,637,370
Court of Special Appeals	4,423,585	4,738,510	4,925,649
Circuit Courts (Includes Circuit Court Clerks' Offices)	61,459,099	62,441,862	69,026,258
District Court	63,338,788	66,407,015	72,028,525
Maryland Judicial Conference	28,229	42,624	48,320
Administrative Office of the Courts	5,643,830	3,592,014	3,595,040
Court-Related Agencies	915,065	989,137	1,002,926
Maryland State Law Library	705,088	747,646	737,746
Judicial Data Processing	8,576,125	8,876,771	10,034,151
TOTAL	\$147,539,020	\$150,368,157	\$164,035,985

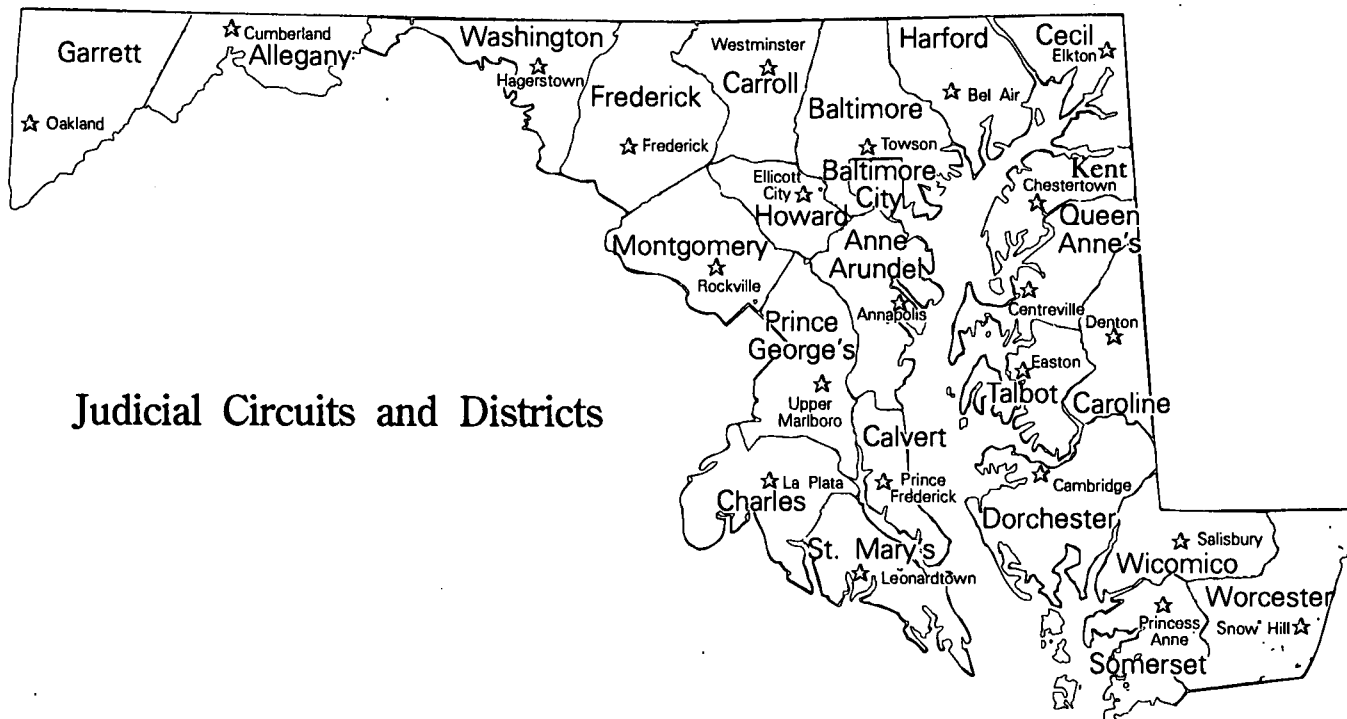
*THE
MARYLAND
JUDICIAL
SYSTEM*



THE MARYLAND JUDICIAL SYSTEM FISCAL YEAR 1996



STATE OF MARYLAND



Judicial Circuits and Districts

JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN APPELLATE CIRCUITS

- First Appellate Circuit—Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Second Appellate Circuit—Baltimore and Harford
- Third Appellate Circuit—Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, and Washington
- Fourth Appellate Circuit—Prince George's
- Fifth Appellate Circuit—Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's
- Sixth Appellate Circuit—Baltimore City
- Seventh Appellate Circuit—Montgomery

JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

- First Judicial Circuit—Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Second Judicial Circuit—Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot
- Third Judicial Circuit—Baltimore and Harford
- Fourth Judicial Circuit—Allegany, Garrett, and Washington
- Fifth Judicial Circuit—Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard
- Sixth Judicial Circuit—Frederick and Montgomery
- Seventh Judicial Circuit—Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's
- Eighth Judicial Circuit—Baltimore City

JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN DISTRICT COURT DISTRICTS

- First District—Baltimore City
- Second District—Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Third District—Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot
- Fourth District—Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's
- Fifth District—Prince George's
- Sixth District—Montgomery
- Seventh District—Anne Arundel
- Eighth District—Baltimore
- Ninth District—Harford
- Tenth District—Carroll and Howard
- Eleventh District—Frederick and Washington
- Twelfth District—Allegany and Garrett

Members of the Maryland Judiciary as of June 30, 1996

THE APPELLATE COURTS

The Court of Appeals

Hon. Robert C. Murphy, CJ (2)
Hon. John C. Eldridge (5)
Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky (3)

Hon. Howard S. Chasanow (4)
Hon. Robert L. Karwacki (1)

Hon. Robert M. Bell (6)
Hon. Irma S. Raker (7)

The Court of Special Appeals

Hon. Alan M. Wilner, CJ (At large)
Hon. Charles E. Moylan, Jr. (At large)
Hon. John J. Bishop, Jr. (At large)
Hon. Theodore G. Bloom (5)
Hon. William W. Wenner (3)

Hon. Robert F. Fischer (At large)
Hon. Dale R. Cathell (1)
Hon. Arrie W. Davis (6)
Hon. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr. (At large)
Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr. (At large)

Hon. Ellen L. Hollander (At large)
Hon. James P. Salmon (4)
Hon. James R. Eyler (2)

THE CIRCUIT COURTS

First Judicial Circuit

Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg, CJ
Hon. Donald F. Johnson
Hon. D. William Simpson
Hon. Richard D. Warren
Hon. Thomas C. Groton, III
*Hon. Daniel M. Long
Vacancy

Second Judicial Circuit

Hon. Donaldson C. Cole, Jr., CJ
*Hon. J. Owen Wise
Hon. Edward D.E. Rollins, Jr.
Hon. John W. Sause, Jr.
Hon. William S. Horne
Hon. J. Frederick Price
Hon. Dexter M. Thompson, Jr.

Third Judicial Circuit

*Hon. Edward A. DeWaters, Jr., CJ
Hon. J. William Hinkel
Hon. John F. Fader, II
Hon. Cypert O. Whitfill
Hon. William O. Carr
Hon. James T. Smith, Jr.
Hon. Dana M. Levitz
Hon. John G. Turnbull, II
Hon. Maurice W. Baldwin, Jr.
Hon. Stephen M. Waldron
Hon. Barbara Kerr Howe
Hon. Alfred L. Brennan, Sr.
Hon. Christian M. Kahl
Hon. Thomas J. Bollinger, Sr.
Hon. J. Norris Byrnes
Hon. Robert E. Cahill, Sr.
Hon. John O. Hennegan
Hon. Lawrence R. Daniels
Hon. Robert E. Cadigan
Hon. Thomas E. Marshall

Fourth Judicial Circuit

*Hon. Frederick C. Wright, III, CJ
Hon. J. Frederick Sharer
Hon. Daniel W. Moylan
Hon. Gary G. Leasure
Hon. Darrow Glaser
Hon. John H. McDowell
Hon. James L. Sherbin

Fifth Judicial Circuit

*Hon. Raymond G. Thieme, Jr., CJ
Hon. Luke K. Burns, Jr.
Hon. Eugene M. Lerner
Hon. Martin A. Wolff
Hon. James C. Cawood, Jr.
Hon. Raymond J. Kane, Jr.
Hon. Robert H. Heller, Jr.
Hon. James B. Dudley
Hon. Raymond E. Beck, Sr.
Hon. Lawrence H. Rushworth
Hon. Francis M. Arnold
Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney
Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr.
Hon. Pamela L. North
Hon. Diane O. Leasure
Hon. Donna Hill Staton
Hon. Ronald A. Silkworth

Sixth Judicial Circuit

Hon. William C. Miller, CJ
Hon. DeLawrence Beard
Hon. G. Edward Dwyer, Jr.
Hon. J. James McKenna
Hon. Mary Ann Stepler
*Hon. Paul H. Weinstein
Hon. Vincent E. Ferretti, Jr.
Hon. Paul A. McGuckian
Hon. James L. Ryan
Hon. Herbert L. Rollins
Hon. Ann S. Harrington

Hon. S. Michael Pincus
Hon. D. Warren Donohue
Hon. William P. Turner
Hon. Michael D. Mason
Hon. Durke G. Thompson
Hon. John H. Tisdale
Hon. Martha G. Kavanaugh
Hon. James C. Chapin
Hon. Louise G. Scrivener

Seventh Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert J. Woods, CJ
Hon. Vincent J. Fernia
Hon. Robert H. Mason
Hon. Audrey E. Melbourne
Hon. Richard J. Clark
Hon. Arthur M. Ahalt
Hon. G. R. Hovey Johnson
Hon. Joseph S. Casula
Hon. Darlene G. Perry
Hon. John H. Briscoe
*Hon. Graydon S. McKee, III
Hon. William D. Missouri
Hon. Robert C. Nalley
Hon. Marvin S. Kaminetz
Hon. Steven I. Platt
Hon. Larnzell Martin, Jr.
Hon. Richard H. Sothoron, Jr.
Hon. C. Philip Nichols, Jr.
Hon. William B. Spellbring, Jr.
Hon. Warren J. Krug
Hon. Sylvania W. Woods
Hon. Thomas P. Smith
Hon. E. Allen Shepherd
Hon. Marjorie L. Clagett
Hon. Sherrie L. Krauser
Hon. Steven G. Chappelle
Hon. Michele D. Hotten
Hon. Christopher C. Henderson
*Circuit Administrative Judge

THE CIRCUIT COURTS (Continued)**Eighth Judicial Circuit**

Hon. Robert I.H. Hammerman, CJ
 Hon. David Ross
 *Hon. Joseph H.H. Kaplan
 Hon. John Carroll Byrnes
 Hon. Kenneth Lavon Johnson
 Hon. Thomas Ward
 Hon. Edward J. Angeletti
 Hon. Thomas E. Noel
 Hon. David B. Mitchell

Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman
 Hon. Marvin B. Steinberg
 Hon. Clifton J. Gordy, Jr.
 Hon. Mabel H. Hubbard
 Hon. John N. Prevas
 Hon. Ellen M. Heller
 Hon. Roger W. Brown
 Hon. John C. Themelis
 Hon. Richard T. Rombro

Hon. Paul A. Smith
 Hon. Joseph P. McCurdy, Jr.
 Hon. Martin P. Welch
 Hon. Carol E. Smith
 Hon. Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
 Hon. David W. Young
 Hon. Bonita J. Dancy
 Hon. Gary I. Strausberg
 *Circuit Administrative Judge

THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**District Court**

Hon. Robert F. Sweeney, CJ

District 1

Hon. Martin A. Kircher
 Hon. Alan M. Resnick
 *Hon. Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt
 Hon. Charlotte M. Cooksey
 Hon. H. Gary Bass
 Hon. Keith E. Mathews
 Hon. Askew W. Gatewood, Jr.
 Hon. Alan J. Karlin
 Hon. Theodore B. Oshrine
 Hon. Kathleen M. Sweeney
 Hon. Teaette S. Price
 Hon. Barbara B. Waxman
 Hon. Jamey H. Weitzman
 Hon. C. Yvonne Holt-Stone
 Hon. Gale R. Caplan
 Hon. Norman E. Johnson, Jr.
 Hon. Nancy B. Shuger
 Hon. John M. Glynn
 Hon. Jack I. Lesser
 Hon. Ben C. Clyburn
 Hon. Charles A. Chiapparelli
 Hon. Audrey J. Carrion
 Vacancy

District 2

Hon. Robert D. Horsey
 *Hon. John L. Norton, III
 Hon. R. Scott Davis
 Hon. Richard R. Bloxom
 Hon. Lloyd O. Whitehead

District 3

Hon. L. Edgar Brown
 Hon. John T. Clark, III
 Hon. William H. Adkins, III
 *Hon. James C. McKinney

Hon. Harry J. Goodrick
 Hon. Floyd L. Parks, Jr.

District 4

Hon. C. Clarke Raley
 Hon. Larry R. Holtz
 Hon. Gary S. Gasparovic
 *Hon. Stephen L. Clagett

District 5

Hon. Theresa A. Nolan
 Hon. Gerard F. Devlin
 Hon. John F. Kelly, Sr.
 Hon. Thurman H. Rhodes
 *Hon. Frank M. Kratovil
 Hon. Patrice E. Lewis
 Hon. Sheila R. Tillerson-Adams
 Hon. Josef B. Brown
 Hon. Michael P. Whalen
 Hon. Ronald D. Schiff
 Hon. Melanie M. Shaw-Geter

District 6

Hon. Henry J. Monahan
 Hon. Louis D. Harrington
 *Hon. Cornelius J. Vaughey
 Hon. Patrick L. Woodward
 Hon. Dennis M. McHugh
 Hon. Lee M. Sislen
 Hon. Nelson W. Rupp, Jr.
 Hon. Thomas L. Craven
 Hon. Joanne T. Wills
 Hon. Barry A. Hamilton
 Hon. Eric M. Johnson
 Vacancy

District 7

Hon. Joseph P. Manck
 *Hon. Martha F. Rasin
 Hon. Michael E. Loney
 Hon. Vincent A. Mulieri

Hon. James W. Dryden
 Hon. Essom V. Ricks, Jr.
 Hon. Nancy L. Davis-Loomis

District 8

*Hon. John H. Garmer
 Hon. A. Gordon Boone, Jr.
 Hon. Patricia S. Pytash
 Hon. Charles E. Foos, III
 Hon. I. Marshall Seidler
 Hon. Michael L. McCampbell
 Hon. Barbara R. Jung
 Hon. G. Darrell Russell
 Hon. Alexander Wright, Jr.
 Hon. Robert N. Dugan
 Hon. Darryl G. Fletcher
 Hon. Alexandra N. Williams

District 9

Hon. Lawrence S. Lanahan, Jr.
 Hon. John L. Dunnigan
 *Hon. Emory A. Plitt, Jr.
 Vacancy

District 10

Hon. R. Russell Sadler
 *Hon. James N. Vaughan
 Hon. Lenore R. Gelfman
 Hon. Louis A. Becker, III
 Hon. JoAnn M. Ellinghaus-Jones
 Hon. Marc G. Rasinsky

District 11

*Hon. Frederick J. Bower
 Hon. W. Milnor Roberts
 Hon. R. Noel Spence
 Hon. Ralph H. France, II

District 12

*Hon. Paul J. Stakem
 Hon. W. Timothy Finan
 Hon. Ralph M. Burnett
 *District Administrative Judge

*THE
COURT
OF
APPEALS*



The Court of Appeals



Introduction

The Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in the State of Maryland, was created by the Constitution of 1776. The Court sat in various locations throughout the State in the early years of its existence, but it has sat only in Annapolis since 1851. The Court is composed of seven judges, one from each of the seven Appellate Judicial Circuits. The appellate judicial circuits were realigned after ratification of Chapter 103, Acts of 1994. As a result of that realignment, there are now seven appellate circuits. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties joined Baltimore City as single jurisdiction circuits. Members of the Court are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Subsequently, they run for office on their records, unopposed. If a judge's retention in office is rejected by the voters or there is a tie vote, that office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is designated by the Governor and is the constitutional administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary.

As a result of legislation effective January 1, 1975, the Court of Appeals hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a discretionary review process. That process has resulted in the reduction of the Courts' formerly excessive workload to a more manageable level, thus allowing the

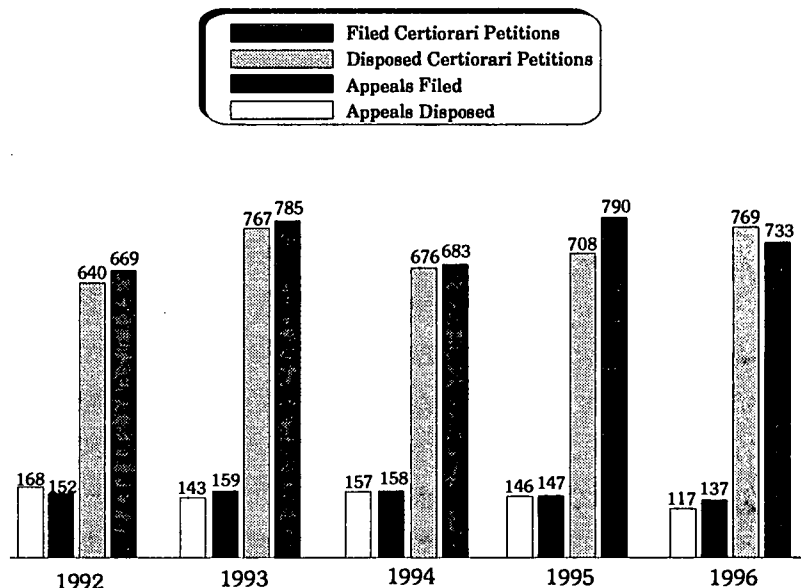
Court to devote more time to the most important and far-reaching issues.

The Court may review cases already decided by the Court of Special Appeals or bring up for review, cases filed in that Court before they are decided. Additionally, the Court of Appeals has exclusive jurisdiction over appeals in which a sentence of death is imposed. Cases from the circuit court level may also be reviewed by the Court of Appeals if those courts have acted in an appellate capacity with respect to an appeal from the District Court. The Court is empowered to adopt rules of judicial

administration, practice, and procedure which will have the force of law. It also admits persons to the practice of law, reviews recommendations of the State Board of Law Examiners and conducts disciplinary proceedings involving members of the bench and bar. Questions of law certified by federal and other state appellate courts may also be decided by the Court of Appeals.

A graphic comparison of regular docket and certiorari petition caseloads over the last five years is provided on Table CA-1. As indicated on the table, both regular docket filings and terminations de-

TABLE CA-1
COURT OF APPEALS
APPEALS ACTUALLY FILED AND
TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR



creased during the five-year period. There was a 9.9 percent decrease reported in regular docket filings, while terminations decreased by approximately 30.4 percent. Certiorari petition filings and terminations increased by 9.6 percent and 20.2

percent, respectively, during the last five years.

Filings

The September 1995 Docket formed the workload for the Court of Appeals for Fiscal Year 1996.

Filings received from March 1 through February 28 are scheduled for argument on the September Term docket beginning the second Monday in September through the beginning of the next term. Appellate court filings for the period of March 1 through February 28 are included in this report, while dispositions are counted using fiscal year data compiled July 1 through June 30.

During the 1995 Term, the Court of Appeals docketed 991 total filings. That figure represents a slight decrease (0.9 percent) from the previous year's total of 1,000 filings. A decreased number of certiorari petitions contributed to the reported reduction in overall filings. There were 745 certiorari petitions filed during the 1995 Term, a decrease of 3.5 percent from the 772 filings reported during the 1994 Term. Regular docket and attorney grievance filings increased during the year, while miscellaneous filings remained relatively constant during the last two years. There were 149 regular docket appeals filed during the 1995 Term. That figure represents an increase of 2.8 percent over the previous year's level of 145 regular docket appeals. Attorney grievance proceedings increased 31.7 percent, from 41 during the 1994 Term, to the current level of 54 filings. There were 43 miscellaneous appeals filed, compared to 42 filings during the 1994 Term.

To request a review of decisions or pending cases initially appealed to the Court of Special Appeals from the circuit and Orphans' courts, a petition for certiorari may be filed. The Court grants those petitions it deems to be "desirable and in the public interest." Additionally, certiorari may be granted to review circuit court decisions on matters appealed from the District Court.

TABLE CA-2
ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY
APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND COUNTIES
COURT OF APPEALS

1995 TERM

FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT	18	12.1%
Caroline County	1	
Cecil County	3	
Dorchester County	1	
Kent County	0	
Queen Anne's County	1	
Somerset County	4	
Talbot County	1	
Wicomico County	5	
Worcester County	2	
SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT	18	12.1%
Baltimore County	15	
Harford County	3	
THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT	14	9.4%
Allegany County	0	
Carroll County	4	
Frederick County	6	
Garrett County	0	
Howard County	1	
Washington County	3	
FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	14	9.4%
Prince George's County	14	
FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	19	12.7%
Anne Arundel County	17	
Calvert County	1	
Charles County	1	
St. Mary's County	0	
SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	44	29.5%
Baltimore City	44	
SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	22	14.8%
Montgomery County	22	
TOTAL	149	100.0%

The Court considered 769 certiorari petitions during Fiscal Year 1996. Included in that figure were 382 petitions for civil cases (49.7 percent) and 387 petitions for criminal cases (50.3 percent). Review of the petitions resulted in 108 or 14 percent being granted, while 643 or 83.6 percent were denied. Additionally, 17 petitions were dismissed by the Court and one petition was withdrawn (Table CA-6).

Comprising the Court's regular docket from year-to-year are cases that have been granted certiorari, as well as cases pending in the Court of Special Appeals that will be heard on the Court's own motion. The Court of Appeals con-

ducts a monthly review of appellants' briefs from cases pending in the Court of Special Appeals. This is done in an effort to identify those cases suitable for consideration by the higher court.

During the 1995 Term, an increase of approximately 2.8 percent was noted in regular docket appeals. There were 145 appeals docketed during the 1994 Term, compared to the current level of 149 appeals. Civil matters, including law, equity, and juvenile cases, comprised 68.5 percent of the regular docket appeals. The remaining 47 cases (31.5 percent) were criminal in nature.

As indicated on Table CA-2, the greatest number of cases was reported by Baltimore City. There were 44 cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction, comprising approximately 29.5 percent of the regular docket appeals. Montgomery County followed with 22 cases or 14.8 percent of the caseload. There were 17 cases reported by Anne Arundel County, representing 11.4 percent of the docketed cases. Baltimore and Prince George's Counties contributed 15 cases (10.1 percent) and 14 cases (9.4 percent) respectively. The remaining 37 cases (24.8 percent) were appealed from the other 19 jurisdictions (Table CA-2).

Dispositions

The Court of Appeals disposed 951 cases during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure represents an increase of 2.1 percent over the previous year's total of 931 case dispositions. During the year, increases were recorded in certiorari petition dispositions and miscellaneous appeals, while regular docket and attorney grievance dispositions both decreased. There were 769 certiorari petition dispositions reported for Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 8.6 percent over the previous year's total of 708 dispositions. Likewise, the number of disposed miscellaneous appeals rose from 30 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 34 dispositions, an increase of 13.3 percent. In contrast, the number of regular docket dispositions decreased 19.9 percent, from 146 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 117 case dispositions. There were 31 attorney grievance proceedings disposed during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure represents a decrease of 34 percent from the 47 dispositions reported for Fiscal Year 1995. The

TABLE CA-3
APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM
COURT OF APPEALS REGULAR DOCKET

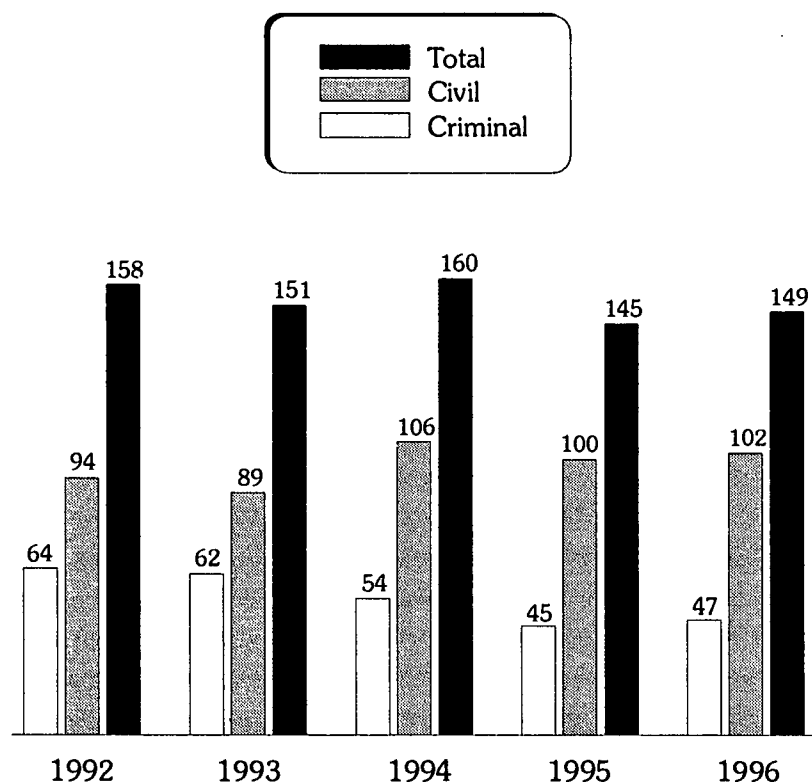


TABLE CA-4
FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS
COURT OF APPEALS

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Filings	Dispositions
Regular Docket	137	117
Petitions for Certiorari	733	769
Attorney Grievance Proceedings	54	31
Bar Admission Proceedings	4	4
Certified Questions of Law	3	2
Miscellaneous Appeals	34	28
Total	965	951

Court admitted 1,826 persons to the practice of law, including 211 attorneys from other jurisdictions.

Of the 117 regular docket appeals disposed during Fiscal Year 1996, six cases were from the 1993 Docket; 39 cases were from the 1994 Docket; 69 cases were from the 1995 Docket; and three cases were from the 1996 Docket. More than 39 percent (46 cases) of the decisions of the lower court were affirmed, while 34.2 percent (40 cases) were reversed. The Court also vacated and remanded 13 decisions handed down by the lower court. Eight decisions were affirmed in part and reversed in part; five were dismissed without an opinion; two were dismissed with an opinion; two were dismissed prior to argument or submission of briefs; and one decision was remanded without affirmance or reversal. Nearly 61 percent of the disposed cases involved civil matters, while 38.5 percent were of a criminal nature. There was one juvenile appeal considered and disposed during the fiscal year (Table CA-7). The Court issued 105 majority opinions, including two per curiam opinions. In addition, there were 22 dissenting opinions, nine concurring opinions and one opin-

ion that was concurring in part and dissenting in part.

Pending

At the close of Fiscal Year 1996, the Court of Appeals had pending before it 126 cases. That figure included one case from the 1993 Docket; 15 cases from the 1994 Docket; 74 cases from the 1995 Docket; and 36 cases from the 1996 Docket. With respect to case type, 84 (66.7 percent) of the pending cases involved civil matters, 40 (31.7 percent) were criminal cases, and two (1.6 percent) cases were of a juvenile nature (Table CA-5).

Trends

The Court of Appeals has experienced fluctuating filing activity over the last five terms. Total filings have ranged from a low of 880 during the 1991 Term, to a high of 1,018 during the 1992 Term. The net change in total filings over the five-year period was a 12.6 percent increase, from 880 during the 1991 Term, to the current level of 991 total filings. During the last five years, certiorari petitions and regular docket filings also fluctuated from year-to-year with no discern-

ible trend. Petitions for certiorari increased by more than 13 percent since the 1991 Term. There were 658 petitions for certiorari filed during the 1991 Term, compared to the current level of 745 filings. In contrast, regular docket appeals decreased approximately 5.7 percent, from 158 during the 1991 Term, to the current level of 149 filings.

Since Fiscal Year 1992, certiorari petition dispositions increased more than 20 percent. There were 640 certiorari petitions disposed during Fiscal Year 1992. That figure compares to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 769 dispositions. The 769 dispositions reported for Fiscal Year 1996 represent an increase of 8.6 percent over the previous year's total of 708 dispositions. Throughout the five-year period, an average of 14.5 percent of the petitions considered by the Court were granted; with civil petitions being granted at a higher rate than criminal petitions. Since Fiscal Year 1992, approximately 17.8 percent of the civil petitions have been granted, compared to 12.1 percent of the criminal petitions. During Fiscal Year 1996, 18.1 percent of the civil petitions were granted. In comparison, 10.1 percent of the criminal petitions were granted during the fiscal year.

Over the last five years, the number of regular docket dispositions have fluctuated from a low of 117 during Fiscal Year 1996, to a high of 168 during the 1992 Term. Those figures represent a decrease of 30.4 percent during the five-year period.

During the same time period, the average amount of time expended from granting of certiorari to rendering a decision increased from 8.6 months during Fiscal Year 1992, to the current level of 9.1 months. Pending caseload increased from 112 cases at the close

of Fiscal Year 1992, to 126 cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 12.5 percent.

With the appointment of a new chief judge to the Court of Ap-

peals, resulting in a new administrative head of the Judiciary, it is quite probable that the Judiciary will undergo some changes. During this transitional period, the Court will be

looked upon for guidance, not only in the judicial arena, but in the non-judicial operation of the Judiciary as well.



*George M. Taylor District
Court/Multi-Service Center
District 7
Anne Arundel County
Glen Burnie, Maryland*

TABLE CA-5
CASES PENDING
COURT OF APPEALS

Regular Docket

June 30, 1996

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Origin				
1993 Docket	1	0	0	1
1994 Docket	12	0	3	15
1995 Docket	46	2	26	74
1996 Docket	25	0	11	36
Total	84	2	40	126

TABLE CA-6
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
PETITION DOCKET DISPOSITIONS
(PETITIONS FOR CERTIORARI)

FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

Petitions	Granted	Dismissed	Denied	Withdrawn	Total	Percentage of Certiorari Petitions Granted
Civil						
1991-92	56	8	237	2	304*	18.4%
1992-93	63	7	295	0	365	17.3%
1993-94	63	3	267	3	336	18.8%
1994-95	63	3	314	2	382	16.5%
1995-96	69	11	301	1	382	18.1%
Criminal						
1991-92	49	1	286	0	336	14.6%
1992-93	48	3	350	1	402	11.9%
1993-94	40	12	286	2	340	11.8%
1994-95	39	0	286	1	326	12.0%
1995-96	39	6	342	0	387	10.1%

* This total includes one civil case which was transferred.

TABLE CA-7
DISPOSITION OF COURT OF APPEALS CASES
Regular Docket
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Affirmed	23	0	23	46
Reversed	23	0	17	40
Dismissed—Opinion Filed	2	0	0	2
Dismissed Without Opinion	4	0	1	5
Remanded Without Affirmance or Reversal	1	0	0	1
Vacated and Remanded	8	1	4	13
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	8	0	0	8
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	2	0	0	2
Origin				
1993 Docket	2	0	4	6
1994 Docket	20	0	19	39
1995 Docket	48	1	20	69
1996 Docket	1	0	2	3
Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal 1996	71	1	45	117

TABLE CA-8
AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS FOR CASES
DISPOSED BY COURT OF APPEALS

Regular Docket

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

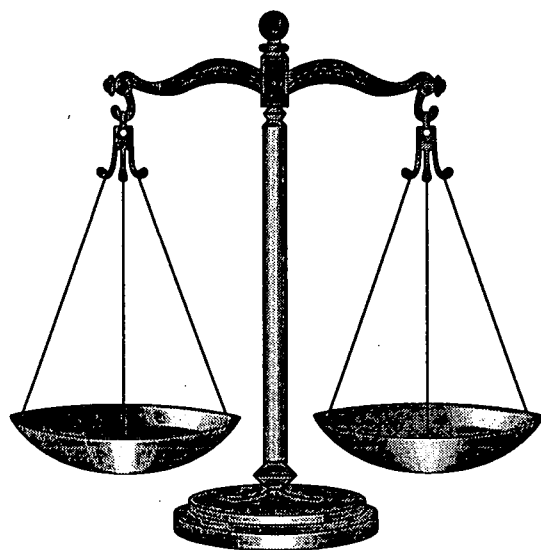
	Certiorari Granted to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument*	Argument to Decision**	Certiorari Granted to Decision*
Days	119	163	272
Months	4.0	5.4	9.1
Number of Cases	117	109	117
* Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1996.			
** Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1996 which were argued.			

TABLE CA-9
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS
FOR FILING OF APPEALS ON THE REGULAR DOCKET
COURT OF APPEALS

(In Days and Months)

Docket	Original Filing to Disposition in Circuit Court	Disposition in Circuit Court to Docketing in Court of Appeals
1991	362 12.1	142 4.7
1992	370 12.3	147 4.9
1993	437 14.6	149 5.0
1994	401 13.4	142 4.7
1995	332 11.1	142 4.7

*THE
COURT OF
SPECIAL
APPEALS*



The Court of Special Appeals



Introduction

Maryland's intermediate appellate court, the Court of Special Appeals, was created in 1966 to address a substantial backlog in the Court of Appeals that had developed as a result of a rapidly increasing caseload.

The Court of Special Appeals sits in Annapolis and is composed of thirteen members, including a chief judge and twelve associates. One member of the Court is elected from each of the seven Appellate Judicial Circuits. The remaining six members are elected from the State at large. Members of the Court of Special Appeals are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The

judges run on their records without opposition for ten-year terms. The Governor designates the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals.

The Court has exclusive initial appellate jurisdiction over any reviewable judgment, decree, order or other action of a circuit court and generally hears cases appealed directly from the circuit courts unless otherwise provided by law. The judges of the Court are empowered to sit in panels of three. A hearing or rehearing before the Court en banc may be ordered in any case by a majority of the incumbent judges. The Court also considers applications for leave to appeal in such areas as post conviction, habeas corpus matters involving denial of

or excessive bail, inmate grievances, appeals from criminal guilty pleas, and violations of probation.

Filings

The Court's workload for 1996 was primarily comprised of cases placed on the September 1995 Docket. Filings received from March 1 through February 28 were entered on the September Term docket for argument beginning the second Monday in September and ending in June. In this report, filings are counted by term, March 1 through February 28, while dispositions are counted by fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

During the September 1995 Term, the Court of Special Appeals docketed 2,042 cases. That figure represents a decrease of approximately 3.7 percent from the previous year's total of 2,121 filings. Civil matters constituted 59.6 percent (1,218 filings), while the remaining 40.4 percent (824 filings) of the caseload involved cases of a criminal nature. During the year, both civil and criminal filings decreased. There were 1,218 civil filings reported for the 1995 Term, a decrease of 3.6 percent from the previous year's total of 1,263 filings. Likewise, a 4 percent decrease was reported in criminal filings, from 858 during the 1994 Term, to the current level of 824 filings (Table CSA-3).

The Court has implemented statutorily prescribed procedures in an effort to more effectively manage its civil and criminal caseloads. Maryland Rule 8-204 and Courts

TABLE CSA-1
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS - APPEALS ACTUALLY
FILED AND TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR

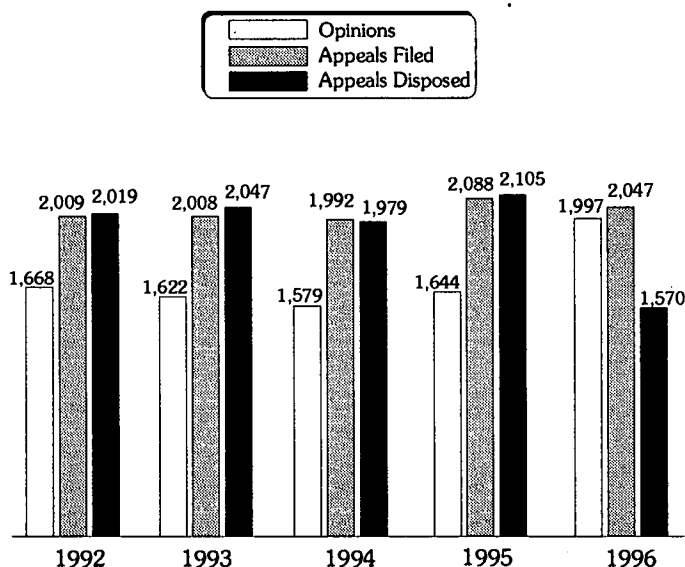


TABLE CSA-2
ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY
APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND COUNTIES
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

1995 TERM

FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT	216	10.6%
Caroline County	18	
Cecil County	38	
Dorchester County	17	
Kent County	10	
Queen Anne's County	11	
Somerset County	17	
Talbot County	22	
Wicomico County	47	
Worcester County	36	
SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT	319	15.6%
Baltimore County	272	
Harford County	47	
THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT	241	11.8%
Allegany County	35	
Carroll County	27	
Frederick County	50	
Garrett County	8	
Howard County	74	
Washington County	47	
FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	337	16.5%
Prince George's County	337	
FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	210	10.3%
Anne Arundel County	133	
Calvert County	22	
Charles County	33	
St. Mary's County	22	
SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	415	20.3%
Baltimore City	415	
SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	304	14.9%
Montgomery County	304	
TOTAL	2,042	100.0%

and Judicial Proceedings Article Section 12-302, which remove the right of direct appeal in those criminal cases in which a guilty plea has been entered, were adopted to manage the criminal caseload more effectively. An application for leave to appeal is now required in those instances in which a guilty plea has been entered in a criminal case.

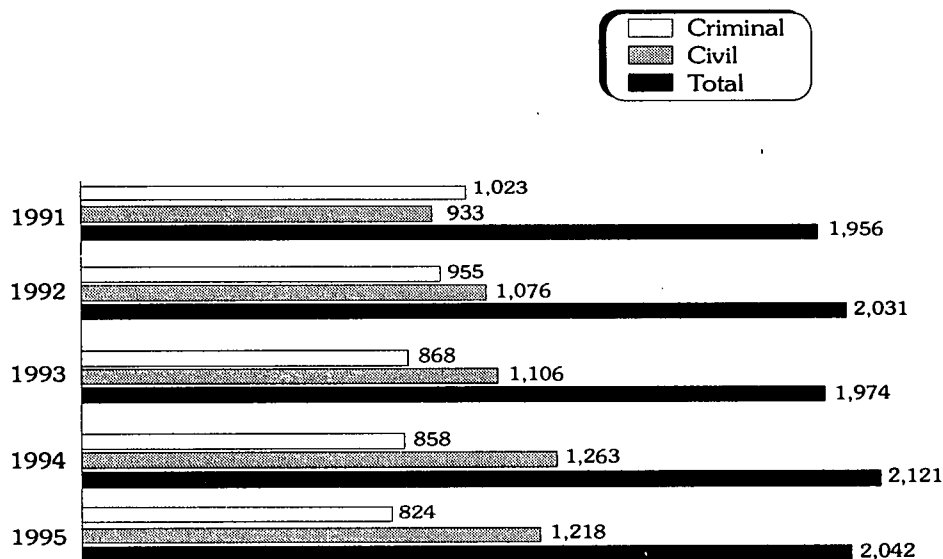
The Court has discretionary authority to either assign the case to the regular docket or to deny the appeal (Table CSA-6).

The trend of criminal filings since the procedure was implemented indicates that the intent has been effectively realized. Criminal filings has not exceeded the 1982 Term total which was the term im-

mediately preceding the adoption of the procedure.

With respect to expediting its civil appeal process, the Court of Special Appeals has used pre-hearing conferences. During the conferences, panels of judges review pending civil cases to identify cases suitable for resolution by the parties. In accordance with Maryland Rule 8-206, the number of civil filings reported does not include civil notices of appeal filed in the clerks' offices. Maryland Rule 8-206.a.1 stipulates that these appeals are either scheduled for pre-hearing conference or proceed through the regular appellate process. If the pre-hearing conferences result in disposition, the cases are not assigned to the regular docket, nor are they reported as filings. In those instances where there is no resolution at the conference, the cases are placed on subsequent dockets and counted as filings. An information report, or summary of the actions of the circuit court, is filed whenever an appeal has been noted. There were 1,443 information reports received by the Court of Special Appeals during the 1995 Term. That figure represents an increase of approximately 4.3 percent over the previous year's total of 1,384 reports. The Court scheduled 520 (36 percent) of the reports for pre-hearing conferences (Table CSA-4). With respect to disposition of those reports scheduled for pre-hearing conferences, 63.1 percent (328) proceeded without limitation of issues and 22.1 percent (115) were dismissed or settled before, at, or as a result of the conferences. There were 40 cases (7.7 percent) dismissed or remanded following the conferences, seven cases (1.3 percent) that proceeded with expedited appeals and four cases (0.8 percent) that had their issues limited at or as a result of the conferences. Three cases (0.6 percent) were

TABLE CSA-3
APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS



stayed pending bankruptcy and there was one miscellaneous case (0.2 percent). The remaining 22 cases (4.2 percent) were pending at the close of the term.

Baltimore City contributed the greatest number of cases during the 1995 Term with 415 regular docket appeals, comprising approximately 20.3 percent of the cases. Prince George's County followed with 337 cases (16.5 percent), while Montgomery County reported 304 cases (14.9 percent). Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported 272 cases (13.3 percent) and 133 cases (6.5 percent), respectively. The other 19 counties reported a combined total of 581 cases, representing 28.5 percent of the docketed cases (Table CSA-2). Approximately 16 percent of the trials conducted in the circuit courts during Fiscal Year 1995 were docketed on the regular docket in the Court of Special Appeals for the 1995 Term (Table CSA-9).

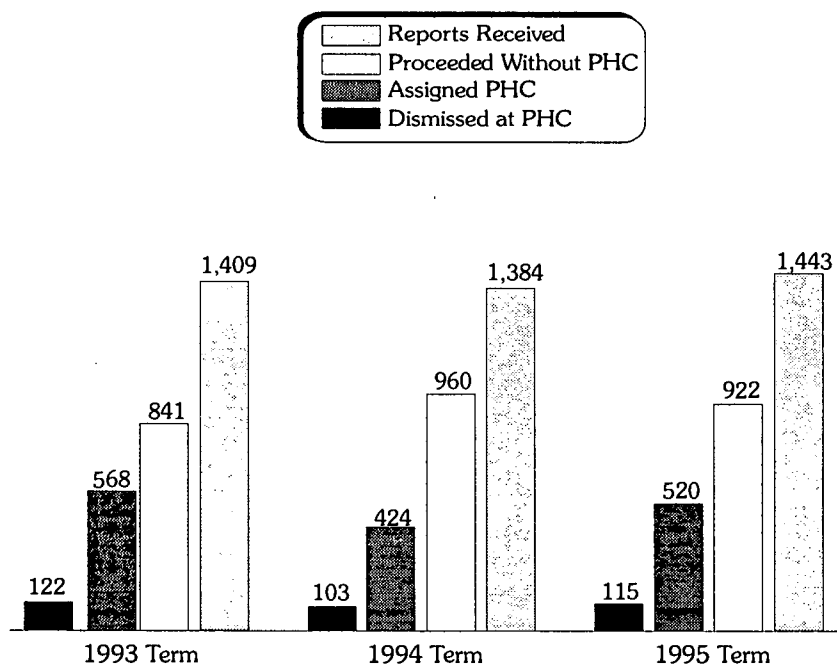
Dispositions

During Fiscal Year 1996, the Court disposed 1,997 regular docket cases. That figure compares with the previous year's total of 2,105 dispositions, a decrease of 5.1 percent. Nearly 60 percent (1,192 cases) of the disposed cases involved civil matters, while 40.3 percent (805 cases) were of a criminal nature (Table CSA-7).

The Court affirmed 1,019 (51 percent) of the lower court's decisions, while reversing 221 or 11.1 percent. More than 53 percent of the affirmances were for criminal cases. In contrast, approximately 65.6 percent of the reversals handed down by the Court involved civil matters. There were 445 cases dismissed prior to argument or submission of briefs, 125 cases affirmed in part and reversed in part and 70 cases that were vacated. In addition, 22 cases were dismissed with an opinion being filed, 25

cases were remanded without affirmance or reversal and 70 cases were transferred to the Court of Appeals. With respect to origin of appeals, one case was from the 1992 Docket; nine cases were from the 1993 Docket; 358 cases from the 1994 Docket; 1,560 cases from the 1995 Docket; and 69 cases were from the 1996 Docket (Table CSA-7). In addition to its regular docket, the Court also disposed 378 cases on its miscellaneous docket. That figure included 218 post conviction cases, 21 inmate grievance cases, 69 violation of probation cases, and 70 miscellaneous cases. The miscellaneous cases were comprised of habeas corpus or bail cases, motion for execution of an order pending appeal, and appeals from guilty pleas. In disposing its miscellaneous docket, the Court granted 13 applications for leave to appeal, denied 361 applications and remanded three. One case was either dis-

TABLE CSA-4
PREHEARING CONFERENCE REPORTS
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS



missed or transferred (Table CSA-6).

The Court averaged 5.3 months from docketing of an appeal to argument or to disposition without an argument during Fiscal Year 1996. During the same time period, there was an average of 1.3 months from argument to decision (Table CSA-10).

There were 1,570 majority opinions issued by the Court of Special Appeals during Fiscal Year 1996. Included in that figure were 1,352 unreported opinions and 218 reported opinions. In comparison, the Court issued 1,644 majority opinions during Fiscal Year 1995 and 1,579 opinions during Fiscal Year 1994. There were also eight concurring opinions and 30

dissenting opinions filed by the Court during Fiscal Year 1996.

Pending

At the close of Fiscal year 1996, there were 1,020 cases pending before the Court of Special Appeals, an increase of 7.6 percent over the previous year's total of 948 pending cases. The cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996 included two cases from the 1992 Docket; four cases from the 1993 Docket; six cases from the 1994 Docket; 405 cases from the 1995 Docket, and 603 cases from the 1996 Docket. Cases pending from the 1996 Docket are primarily matters that have been scheduled for argument during the September 1996 Term, while the remaining pending cases have been argued

and are awaiting issuance of opinions (Table CSA-8).

Trends

Filings activity in the Court of Special Appeals has fluctuated over the last five years, ranging from a low of 1,956 during the 1991 Term, to a high of 2,121 during the 1994 Term. Since the 1991 Term, total filings have increased by 4.4 percent, from 1,956, to the current level of 2,042 filings. During the same time period, civil filings increased by 30.5 percent (933 during the 1991 Term to 1,218 during the 1995 Term) while a 19.5 percent decrease was noted in criminal appeals (from 1,023 during the 1991 Term, to 824 during the 1995 Term). Criminal appeals decreased steadily throughout

the five-year period, while the first decrease in civil appeals during the same period occurred during the 1995 Term. Along with the fluctuation in filings over the five-year period, dispositions fluctuated from year-to-year, with a net decrease of approximately 1.1 percent. There were 2,019 regular docket dispositions reported by the Court of Special Appeals during Fiscal Year 1992, compared to the current level of 1,997 dispositions. Miscel-

laneous docket dispositions increased 95.9 percent during the last five years, from 193 during Fiscal Year 1992, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 378 dispositions. Contributing to the increase in miscellaneous docket dispositions were significant increases in post conviction and violation of probation dispositions over the five-year period, 235.4 percent and 176 percent, respectively. The Court decreased its pending caseload by approximately

2.2 percent during the last five years. At the close of Fiscal Year 1992, there were 1,043 cases pending, compared to the current level of 1,020 pending cases. Also decreasing during the five-year period was the amount of time expended from the docketing of a case to its argument, from six months during Fiscal Year 1992, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 5.3 months.

TABLE CSA-5

DISPOSITION OF INFORMATION REPORTS
ASSIGNED FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE
1995 TERM

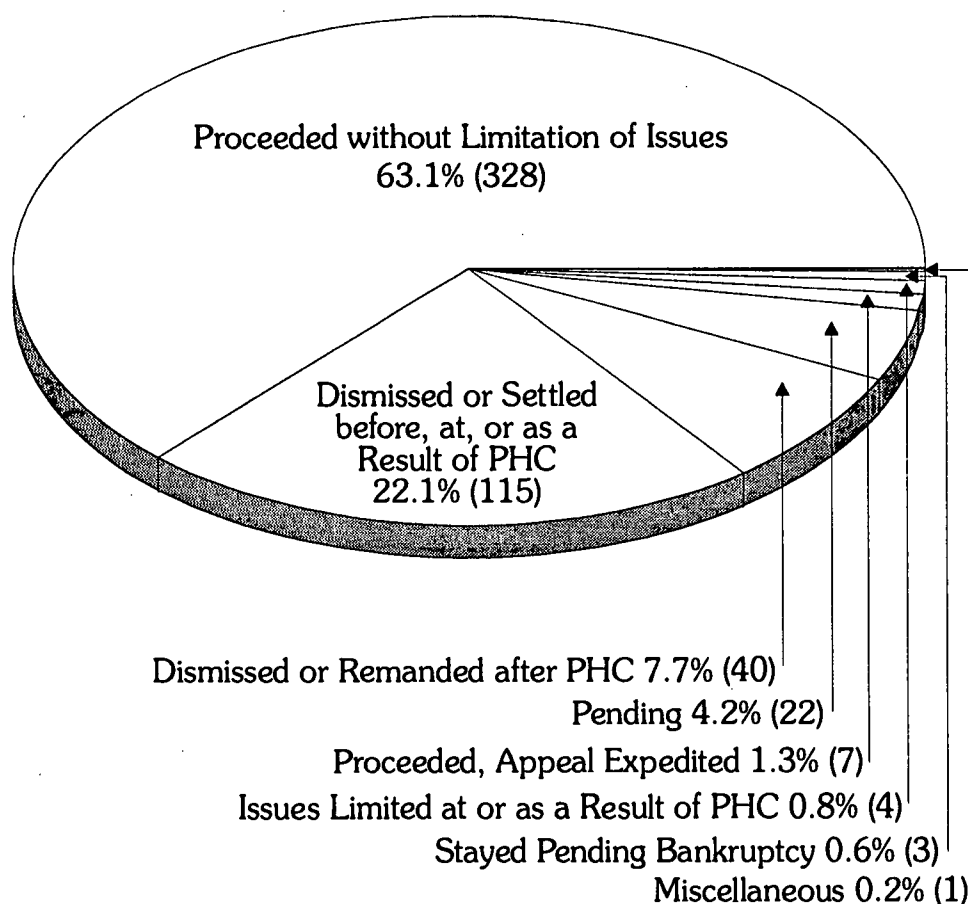


TABLE CSA-6
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL
AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CASES

FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
POST CONVICTION-TOTAL	65	203	58	236	218
Granted	9	19	3	14	10
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	56	184	55	221	205
Remanded	0	0	0	1	3
INMATE GRIEVANCE-TOTAL	23	15	29	28	21
Granted	0	0	1	3	0
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	23	15	26	25	21
Remanded	0	0	2	0	0
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS-TOTAL	80	92	19	119	70
Granted	3	3	3	5	1
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	77	87	16	112	69
Remanded	0	2	0	2	0
VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION-TOTAL*	25	22	148	126	69
Granted	2	1	14	4	2
Dismissed or Transferred	1	0	0	0	1
Denied	22	21	133	122	66
Remanded	0	0	1	0	0
* Effective July 1, 1991, Violations of Probation were removed from the Direct Appeal docket. Anyone appealing from a Violation of Probation must now file an Application for Leave to Appeal.					

TABLE CSA-7
CASES DISPOSED BY
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
Regular Docket
JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Affirmed	476	0	543	1,019
Reversed	145	0	76	221
Dismissed—Opinion Filed	20	0	2	22
Dismissed Without Opinion	0	0	0	0
Remanded Without Affirmance or Reversal	22	0	3	25
Vacated	60	0	10	70
Affirmed In Part, Reversed in Part	71	0	54	125
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	347	0	98	445
Transferred to Court of Appeals	51	0	19	70
Origin				
1993 Docket	7	0	2	9
1994 Docket	190	0	168	358
1995 Docket	934	0	626	1,560
1996 Docket	60	0	9	69
Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal 1996	1,192	0	605	1,997

TABLE CSA-8
PENDING CASES
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
Regular Docket
June 30, 1996

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Origin				
1992 Docket	0	0	2	2
1993 Docket	4	0	0	4
1994 Docket	4	0	2	6
1995 Docket	214	1	190	405
1996 Docket	350	0	253	603
Total Cases Pending at Close of Fiscal 1996	572	1	447	1,020

Includes pending cases to be heard in September Term 1996.

TABLE CSA-9
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
FILINGS ON 1995 REGULAR DOCKET
AND CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS IN FISCAL 1995

Jurisdiction	Court of Special Appeals 1995 Regular Docket	Circuit Court Fiscal 1995 Trials	Ratio of Appeals to Trials
Prince George's County	337	510	.66
Frederick County	50	125	.40
Allegany County	35	114	.31
Baltimore County	272	1,025	.27
Harford County	47	196	.24
Montgomery County	304	1,267	.24
Howard County	74	324	.23
Baltimore City	415	2,395	.17
Washington County	47	284	.17
Wicomico County	47	298	.16
Caroline County	18	113	.16
Dorchester County	17	109	.16
Somerset County	17	107	.16
Garrett County	8	55	.15
Kent County	10	73	.14
Talbot County	22	213	.10
Anne Arundel County	133	1,442	.09
Queen Anne's County	11	142	.08
Charles County	33	439	.08
Calvert County	22	301	.07
Cecil County	38	624	.06
Worcester County	36	574	.06
St. Mary's County	22	430	.05
Carroll County	27	1,372	.02
TOTAL	2,042	12,532	.16

TABLE CSA-10
AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS FOR
CASES DISPOSED BY
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

Regular Docket

JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

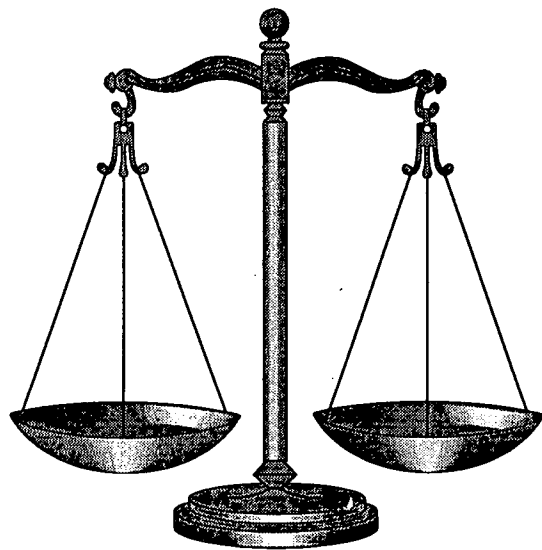
	Docketing to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument*	Argument to Decision**
Days	160	38
Months	5.3	1.3
Number of Cases	1,997	1,449

* Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1996.
 ** Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1996 which were argued.

TABLE CSA-11
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS
FOR FILING OF APPEALS ON THE REGULAR DOCKET
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
(In Days and Months)

Docket	Original Filing to Disposition in Court Below	Disposition in Circuit Court to Docketing in Court of Special Appeals
1991	372 12.4	119 4.0
1992	401 13.4	130 4.3
1993	415 13.8	128 4.3
1994	418 13.9	128 4.3
1995	408 13.6	129 4.3

THE CIRCUIT COURTS



The Circuit Courts



Introduction

The circuit courts are the highest common law and equity courts of record exercising original jurisdiction within the State. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, along with all of the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and the law, except when jurisdiction has been limited or conferred upon another tribunal by law.

In each county of the State and Baltimore City, there is a circuit court which is a trial court of general jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction is very broad but, generally, it handles the major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. The circuit courts also decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

The courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits. Each of the first seven circuits is comprised of two or more counties, while the Eighth Judicial Circuit only consists of Baltimore City. On January 1, 1983, the former Supreme Bench was consolidated into the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

As of July 1, 1995, there were 132 authorized circuit court judgeships, with at least one judge for each county and 26 in Baltimore City. Unlike the other three court levels in Maryland, there is no chief judge who is administrative head of the circuit courts. However, there are eight circuit administrative judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

They perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits and are assisted by county administrative judges.

Each circuit court judge initially is appointed to office by the Governor and must stand for election at the next general election which follows, by at least one year, the vacancy the judge was appointed to fill. The judge may be opposed by one or more members of the bar. The successful candidate is elected to a fifteen-year term of office.

Filings

During Fiscal Year 1996, there were 268,399 total filings reported by the circuit courts. That figure compares with 262,322 total filings during Fiscal Year 1995, representing an increase of approximately 2.3 percent. Contributing to the general rise was a 6.7 percent increase in civil filings, from 147,784 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 157,743 civil filings. Criminal filings also increased over the last two years, from 68,672 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 69,753 filings, an increase of 1.6 percent. During the same time period, juvenile filings decreased 10.8 percent. There were 40,903 juvenile case filings reported by the circuit courts, a reduction of nearly 5,000 filings from the previous year's total of 45,866 filings (Table CC-3).

Civil cases continue to constitute the majority of the cases filed in the circuit courts each year. During Fiscal Year 1996, nearly 60 percent (i.e., 157,743) of all cases

filed involved civil matters. The five largest jurisdictions — Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City — contributed approximately 70.1 percent (i.e., 110,534) of the civil caseload for Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares with 105,364 or 71.3 percent for Fiscal Year 1995. Prince George's County reported the greatest number of civil cases with 29,293 filings, a slight decrease of less than one percent from the previous year's total of 29,544 filings. Baltimore City followed with 27,946 filings. That figure represents a 12.9 percent increase over the 24,750 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995. The 22,711 civil case filings reported by Montgomery County compares with 21,354 filings reported during the previous year, an increase of 6.4 percent. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported increases of 4.1 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. There were 15,574 civil cases filed by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to 14,957 during Fiscal Year 1995. Anne Arundel County's civil caseload rose from 14,759 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 15,010 filings.

A contributing factor to the general rise in civil filings was a 12.4 percent increase in domestic-related cases. There were 84,493 domestic-related case filings reported for Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the current level of 94,988 filings. Paternity filings increased approximately 25 percent (i.e., from 26,127 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 32,678 in Fiscal Year 1996), fueling the overall increase

in domestic-related filings. During the year, "other" tort (e.g., assault and battery, false imprisonment, and libel and slander) filings increased by 5.5 percent, from 5,051 during Fiscal Year 1995, to 5,330 in Fiscal Year 1996. "Other" law (e.g., conversion, detinue, and ejectment) and contract filings decreased 23.3 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively, during the year. There were 3,779 "other" law filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the previous year's total of 4,927 filings. Likewise, contract filings decreased from 7,468 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 7,122 in Fiscal Year 1996 (Table CC-8).

In exercising jurisdiction formerly held by an orphans' court, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County conducted 282 hearings and executed 6,155 orders. The Circuit Court for Harford County, which exercises the same jurisdiction, conducted 40 hearings and issued 595 orders.

The 69,753 criminal case filings reported by the circuit courts constituted approximately 26 percent of the Fiscal Year 1996 caseload. That percentage was relatively consistent with the previous year, when criminal cases comprised approximately 26.2 percent of the overall caseload. Baltimore City reported 21,736 criminal cases, comprising 31.2 percent of the criminal cases reported during Fiscal Year 1996. The 21,736 filings represent a slight reduction of 2.7 percent over the last two years, from 22,328 filings in Fiscal Year 1995. There were 8,851 criminal filings reported by Prince George's County, compared to 7,642 filings during Fiscal Year 1995. Those figures represent an increase of 15.8 percent. Contributing to the reported increase was a 36.8 percent rise in jury trial prayers, from 2,652 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the cur-

rent level of 3,628 filings. Baltimore County reported a 7.8 percent increase in its criminal caseload. There were 7,225 criminal cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1995. That figure compares to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 7,789 filings. A 13.2 percent increase in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 3,536 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,003 in Fiscal Year 1996), contributed to the general increase reported by Baltimore County. Montgomery County reported 5,293 criminal filings during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 10.2 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 4,803 filings. Increases in indictment and information filings, as well as in jury trial prayers contributed to the reported increase. There were 2,650 indictment and information cases filed, an increase of 12.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 2,357 filings. Likewise, requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court in Montgomery County rose 9.8 percent, from 1,560 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 1,713 filings. There was a reduction in criminal filing activity reported by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1996. There were 4,917 total criminal filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, a 6.9 percent decrease from the previous year when 5,279 criminal cases were filed. Indictment and information filings and jury trial prayers both decreased in Anne Arundel County during the fiscal year, contributing to the overall decrease. Jury trial prayers decreased 7.6 percent (i.e., from 3,795 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,508 in Fiscal Year 1996), while indictment and information filings decreased 7.2 percent, from 746 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 692 in Fiscal Year 1996 (Table CC-22).

The only functional area in which an overall decrease was

noted in juvenile matters. During Fiscal Year 1996, the circuit courts reported 40,903 juvenile filings, a decrease of 10.8 percent from the previous year's level of 45,866 filings. Juvenile filings comprised approximately 15.2 percent of the total caseload of the circuit courts for Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares with 17.5 percent during Fiscal Year 1995. The five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 31,379 juvenile filings, constituting nearly 77 percent of all juvenile matters filed during Fiscal Year 1996. The greatest number of juvenile case filings, 10,260, was filed by Baltimore City. That figure represents a decrease of 17.2 percent from the previous year's total of 12,398 filings. A rather significant decrease in C.I.N.A. filings contributed to the reported decrease. There were 3,503 C.I.N.A. case filings reported for Fiscal Year 1996, a decrease of 42.5 percent from the previous year's total of 6,087 filings. In contrast, delinquency filings in Baltimore City increased 7.9 percent, from 6,221 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 6,711 filings. Of note is that there appears to be a direct correlation between the decrease in juvenile filings and the manner in which the Quest system in Baltimore City counts cases. Montgomery County reported 6,915 juvenile filings, a 9.2 percent decrease from the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 7,614 filings. Delinquency filings in Montgomery County decreased 9.9 percent, from 5,794 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 5,223 in Fiscal Year 1996, as did C.I.N.A. filings (i.e., 6.3 percent), from 1,784 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,671 in Fiscal Year 1996, contributing to the overall decrease. Prince George's County also reported a reduction in juvenile case filings during the fiscal year. There were 5,880 juvenile filings reported for

Fiscal Year 1996, a 21.4 percent decrease from the previous year's total of 7,478 filings. Contributing to the reported decrease was a 23.4 percent decrease in delinquency filings (i.e., from 5,383 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,121 in Fiscal Year 1996), coupled with a 16.4 percent decrease in C.I.N.A. filings (i.e., from 2,086 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,743 in Fiscal Year 1996). Juvenile caseloads in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties decreased by 0.8 percent and 7 percent, respectively. There were 4,589 juvenile cases reported by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 4,628 filings. A 3.6 percent reduction in delinquency filings, from 4,015 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 3,871 filings, contributed to the reported decrease. Anne Arundel County's juvenile caseload decreased from 4,015 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,735 in Fiscal Year 1996. Contributing to the reported decrease was a 8.4 percent reduction in delinquency filings, from 3,319 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 3,041 filings. Statewide, delinquency filings decreased approximately 6.2 percent, from 31,885 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 29,900 in Fiscal Year 1996. Likewise, a 21.8 percent reduction was noted in C.I.N.A. filings. There were 10,669 C.I.N.A. cases filed by the circuit courts during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the previous year's level of 13,635 filings (Table CC-8).

Terminations

During Fiscal Year 1996, the circuit courts reported 220,527 terminations. That figure represents a slight increase of 0.5 percent over the previous year's total of 219,463 terminations. Increases in civil and criminal terminations, miti-

gated by a decrease in juvenile terminations, contributed to the slight overall increase. More than 82 percent of the cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996 were terminated, compared to 83.7 percent during Fiscal Year 1995 (Table CC-4).

There were 118,964 civil cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of approximately 1.2 percent over the previous year's level of 117,610 terminations. The five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 76,765 civil terminations, comprising 64.5 percent of the cases. Prince George's County reported the greatest number of civil terminations with 22,964 cases. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 25,630 terminations. Contributing to the reported decrease was a 12.7 percent reduction in domestic-related termina-

tions (i.e., from 16,688 during Fiscal Year 1995, to 14,572 during Fiscal Year 1996). Montgomery County terminated 18,653 civil cases during the fiscal year, an increase of 3.2 percent over the previous year's total of 18,067 terminations. Domestic-related case terminations increased 11.6 percent, from 7,187 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 8,019 terminations, contributing to the reported increase in the aforementioned jurisdiction. Civil terminations in Anne Arundel County increased 6.9 percent, from 13,172 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 14,086 terminations. A 17.5 percent increase in domestic-related terminations (i.e., from 7,094 during Fiscal Year 1995, to 8,334 during Fiscal Year 1996), contributed to the increase reported by Anne Arundel County.

TABLE CC-1
CIRCUIT COURT - FILINGS BY FISCAL YEAR

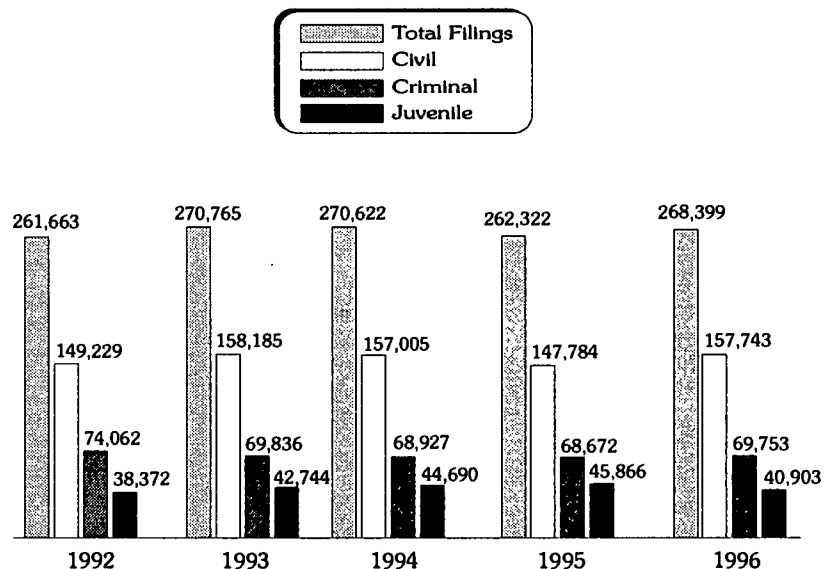


TABLE CC-2
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
ALL CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED										
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
FIRST CIRCUIT	10,862	10,159	11,296	10,922	11,096	10,563	11,079	10,564	12,004	11,140
Dorchester	2,218	1,916	2,068	2,121	2,044	1,852	1,901	1,708	1,928	1,773
Somerset	1,784	1,696	2,046	1,938	2,026	1,927	2,051	2,075	2,175	2,076
Wicomico	3,854	3,962	3,986	3,530	3,936	3,531	3,924	3,825	4,532	4,155
Worcester	3,026	2,585	3,196	3,333	3,090	3,253	3,203	2,956	3,369	3,136
SECOND CIRCUIT	10,442	9,666	10,013	9,699	10,041	9,694	10,750	9,644	11,400	10,436
Caroline	1,325	1,344	1,440	1,329	1,302	1,206	1,541	1,404	1,678	1,547
Cecil	4,633	4,155	4,413	4,076	4,328	4,230	4,718	4,092	4,982	4,287
Kent	1,437	1,319	1,171	1,274	1,392	1,281	1,324	1,290	1,432	1,392
Queen Anne's	1,342	1,418	1,388	1,440	1,351	1,337	1,357	1,356	1,686	1,632
Talbot	1,705	1,630	1,601	1,580	1,668	1,640	1,810	1,702	1,622	1,580
THIRD CIRCUIT	33,492	29,967	32,615	30,645	33,537	30,113	34,110	29,666	34,895	26,777
Baltimore	25,736	22,365	25,455	24,573	26,500	24,267	26,810	22,960	27,952	23,209
Harford	7,756	7,622	7,360	6,072	7,037	5,846	7,300	6,928	6,943	5,568
FOURTH CIRCUIT	9,350	6,759	9,099	6,460	10,544	10,621	10,206	9,563	11,263	10,241
Allegany	2,576	2,581	2,795	2,578	3,224	3,310	2,680	2,528	3,230	2,994
Garrett	1,131	1,111	1,099	1,094	1,150	1,069	1,152	1,005	1,168	1,074
Washington	5,643	5,067	5,205	4,808	6,170	6,242	6,374	6,050	6,865	6,173
FIFTH CIRCUIT	40,074	34,229	39,666	39,161	39,671	36,367	36,276	35,707	36,146	36,962
Anne Arundel	26,798	21,747	26,250	27,030	26,362	25,094	24,053	21,761	23,662	22,751
Carroll	5,581	4,653	6,236	4,934	6,296	6,064	6,143	5,853	5,937	6,036
Howard	7,695	7,829	7,380	7,197	7,013	7,209	8,080	8,093	8,547	8,195
SIXTH CIRCUIT	43,971	31,660	48,564	36,322	48,242	37,012	39,127	32,750	40,666	34,315
Frederick	5,289	4,195	5,155	4,759	5,219	4,577	5,356	4,417	5,749	4,120
Montgomery*	38,682	27,465	43,409	33,563	41,023	32,435	33,771	28,333	34,919	30,195
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	52,777	45,916	51,999	46,841	55,213	50,303	59,296	54,186	60,061	52,748
Calvert	2,904	2,804	2,807	2,813	2,801	2,628	3,752	3,734	4,450	4,604
Charles	5,539	5,048	5,456	5,012	5,712	5,228	6,785	5,950	6,902	6,561
Prince George's	40,082	34,577	39,748	35,686	42,721	38,950	44,664	40,576	44,024	36,860
St. Mary's	4,252	3,487	3,988	3,330	3,979	3,497	4,097	3,906	4,705	4,723
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	60,675	57,662	67,113	61,736	64,276	50,865	59,476	36,961	59,942	35,666
Baltimore City	60,675	57,662	67,113	61,736	64,276	50,865	59,476	36,961	59,942	35,886
STATE	261,663	228,236	270,765	245,606	270,622	237,558	262,322	219,4632	66,399	20,527

*Includes juvenile cases processed at the District Court level.

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

TABLE CC-3
COMPARATIVE TABLE ON FILINGS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS
FISCAL 1995-FISCAL 1996

	CIVIL			CRIMINAL			JUVENILE			TOTAL		
	1994-95	1995-96	% Change	1994-95	1995-96	% Change	1994-95	1995-96	% Change	1994-95	1995-96	% Change
FIRST CIRCUIT												
Dorchester	1,005	1,121	11.5	633	632	-0.2	263	175	-33.5	1,901	1,928	1.4
Somerset	1,303	1,441	10.6	528	535	1.3	220	199	-9.5	2,051	2,175	6.0
Wicomico	2,141	2,371	10.7	1,451	1,808	24.8	332	353	6.3	3,924	4,532	15.5
Worcester	1,826	1,856	1.6	1,008	1,197	18.8	369	316	-14.4	3,203	3,369	5.2
SECOND CIRCUIT												
Caroline	1,157	1,312	13.4	228	203	-11.0	156	163	4.5	1,541	1,678	8.9
Cecil	2,586	2,767	7.0	1,454	1,491	2.5	678	724	6.8	4,718	4,982	5.6
Kent	967	1,157	19.8	265	188	-29.1	92	87	-5.4	1,324	1,432	8.2
Queen Anne's	959	1,149	19.8	171	213	24.6	227	324	42.7	1,357	1,686	24.2
Talbot	1,093	1,108	1.4	417	330	-20.9	300	184	-38.7	1,810	1,822	-10.4
THIRD CIRCUIT												
Baltimore	14,957	15,574	4.1	7,225	7,789	7.8	4,628	4,589	-0.8	26,810	27,952	4.3
Harford	3,983	3,991	0.2	2,294	2,101	-8.4	1,023	851	-16.8	7,300	6,943	-4.9
FOURTH CIRCUIT												
Allegany	1,796	2,297	27.9	619	617	-0.3	265	316	19.2	2,680	3,230	20.5
Garrett	870	842	-3.2	142	193	35.9	140	133	-5.0	1,152	1,168	1.4
Washington	3,515	4,184	19.0	2,081	1,890	-9.2	778	791	1.7	6,374	6,885	7.7
FIFTH CIRCUIT												
Anne Arundel	14,759	15,010	1.7	5,279	4,917	-6.9	4,015	3,735	-7.0	24,053	23,662	-1.6
Carroll	3,248	3,320	2.2	2,106	1,953	-7.3	789	664	-15.8	6,143	5,937	-3.4
Howard	3,848	4,192	8.9	2,945	3,070	4.2	1,287	1,285	-0.2	8,080	8,547	5.8
SIXTH CIRCUIT												
Frederick	3,027	3,361	11.0	1,418	1,522	7.3	911	868	-4.9	5,356	5,749	7.3
Montgomery*	21,354	22,711	6.4	4,803	5,293	10.2	7,614	6,915	-9.2	33,771	34,919	3.4
SEVENTH CIRCUIT												
Calvert	2,068	2,819	36.3	1,092	879	-19.5	592	752	27.0	3,752	4,450	18.6
Charles	4,451	4,584	3.0	1,518	1,502	-1.1	816	816	0.0	6,785	8,902	1.7
Prince George's	29,544	29,293	-0.8	7,642	8,851	15.8	7,478	5,880	-21.4	44,664	44,024	-1.4
St. Mary's	2,577	3,337	29.5	1,025	843	-17.8	495	525	6.1	4,097	4,705	14.8
EIGHTH CIRCUIT												
Baltimore City	24,750	27,946	12.9	22,328	21,736	-2.7	12,398	10,260	-17.2	59,476	59,942	0.8
STATE	147,784	157,743	6.7	68,672	69,753	1.6	45,868	40,903	-10.8	262,322	268,399	2.3

*Includes juvenile cases processed at the District Court level.

There were 11,717 civil case terminations reported by Baltimore County, a 2.3 percent decrease from the previous year's total of 11,990 terminations. A 2.9 percent decrease in domestic-related terminations (i.e., from 6,605 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 6,412 in Fiscal Year 1996) contributed to the reported decrease. Of the five largest jurisdictions, Baltimore City was the only one to report an increased number of civil terminations. There were 9,345 civil cases terminated by the aforementioned jurisdiction. That figure represents a 6.7 percent increase over the prior year's total of 8,762 terminations. Domestic-related terminations increased 21.3 percent, contributing to the increase reported by Baltimore City (Table CC-9).

Statewide, the circuit courts terminated 66,954 criminal cases during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 6.3 percent over the previous year's total of 62,980 criminal terminations. More than 31 percent of the criminal cases terminated were reported by Baltimore City. There were 21,085 criminal terminations reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, an increase of 4.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 20,137 terminations. There was a 34.8 percent increase reported by Montgomery County, from 3,723 terminations during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 5,018 terminations. Prince George's County reported 8,248 criminal terminations, an 11 percent rise over the previous year's level of 7,432 terminations. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported increases of 4.6 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. There were 7,092 criminal cases terminated by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to 7,415 during Fiscal Year 1996. Criminal terminations in Anne Arundel

County rose from 4,911 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 4,986 terminations. With respect to categorical fluctuations, indictment and information terminations increased 10 percent, while motor vehicle and "other" appeals (i.e., criminal matters) increased by 8.5 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively (Table CC-9).

There were 34,609 juvenile cases terminated by the circuit courts during Fiscal Year 1996, an 11 percent decrease from the 38,873 juvenile terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1995. Contributing to the reported decrease were decreases reported by three of the five largest jurisdictions. The greatest decrease was reported by Baltimore City (i.e., 32.3 percent), from 8,062 during Fiscal Year 1995, to 5,456 during Fiscal Year 1996. Prince George's County followed with a 24.8 percent decrease. There were 5,648 juvenile cases terminated by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the previous year's total of 7,514 terminations. Juvenile case terminations remained relatively consistent in Montgomery County over the last two years. There were 6,524 juvenile cases terminated by Montgomery County, a decrease of less than one percent from the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 6,543 terminations. Baltimore County reported a 5.1 percent increase, while Anne Arundel County's juvenile terminations remained relatively consistent over the last two years (i.e., 3,678 in Fiscal Year 1995, compared to 3,679 in Fiscal Year 1996). There were 3,878 juvenile terminations reported by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1995. That figure compares with the current level of 4,077 terminations. Categorical fluctuations contributing to the general decrease in juvenile terminations included a 20.6 percent

decrease in C.I.N.A. terminations (i.e., from 10,252 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 8,141 in Fiscal Year 1996) and a 7.6 percent reduction in delinquency terminations (i.e., from 28,376 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 26,220 in Fiscal Year 1996).

Court Trials, Jury Trials, and Hearings

The circuit courts conducted 273,850 judicial proceedings during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 279,885 judicial proceedings, a decrease of approximately 2.2 percent. During the fiscal year, there were 262,041 hearings held. That figure included 86,611 civil hearings, 81,752 juvenile hearings and 93,678 criminal hearings. The circuit courts also conducted 8,769 court trials and 3,040 jury trials. Nearly 63 percent (i.e., 5,491) of the court trials conducted during Fiscal Year 1996 involved civil matters. In addition, 51.6 percent (i.e., 1,568) of the jury trials were of a civil nature (Table CC-10).

Elapsed Time of Case Dispositions

The circuit courts averaged 180 days from filing to disposition of a civil case during Fiscal Year 1996. During that same time period, an average time of 116 days was expended from filing to disposition of a criminal case, while the filing to disposition time of a juvenile case averaged 59 days. In comparison, a civil case averaged 174 days from its filing to disposition during Fiscal Year 1995. Criminal cases averaged 113 days and juvenile cases averaged 61 days from filing to disposition during Fiscal Year 1995. Inactive cases were ex-

cluded in calculating the above averages (Table CC-13).

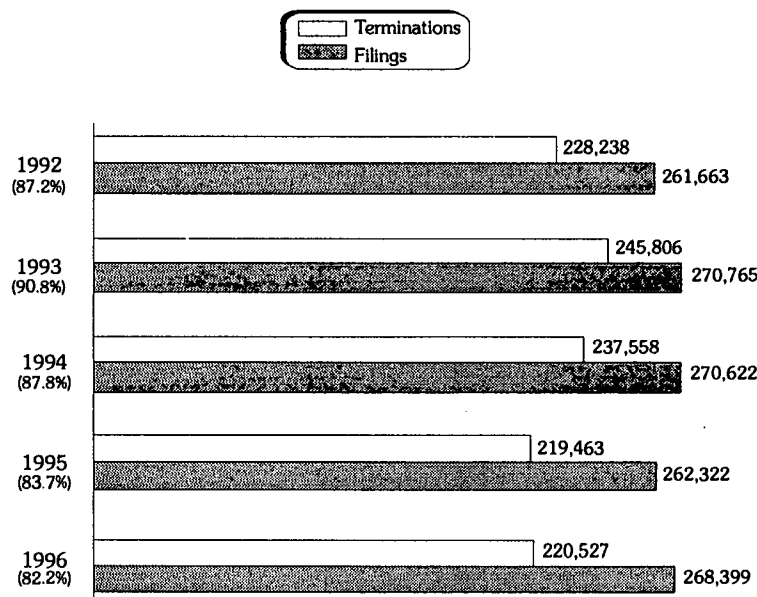
Pending

The circuit courts had pending before them 335,794 cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. That figure represents an increase of 10.6 percent over the 303,705 cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1995. More than 69 percent of the cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996 involved civil matters. There were 232,338 civil cases pending, an increase of approximately 13.1 percent over the previous year's total of 205,436 pending civil cases. The five largest jurisdictions contributed 196,836 cases or 84.7 percent of the pending civil caseload. Baltimore City reported 98,567 pending civil cases,

a 20.1 percent increase over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 82,091 pending civil cases. Prince George's County's pending civil caseload increased nearly 16 percent, from 31,078 at the close of Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 35,973 pending cases. Likewise, an increase of 13.4 percent was reported by Baltimore County (i.e., from 26,770 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 30,368 in Fiscal Year 1996). Anne Arundel County reported 22,303 pending civil cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1996, a 5.4 percent increase over the previous year's total of 21,157 cases. The only larger jurisdiction to note a decrease in pending cases was Montgomery County. There were 9,625 civil cases pending in the aforementioned jurisdiction at the close of the fiscal year. That figure

represents a 7.8 percent decrease from the 10,437 pending cases reported during the previous year. An increase was also reported in the pending juvenile caseload. There were 39,302 juvenile cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 16.5 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 33,742 pending cases. Three of the five largest jurisdictions reported increases, contributing to the overall increase. The greatest increase was reported by Baltimore City (i.e., 23.5 percent), from 21,099 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 26,052 pending juvenile cases. Baltimore County followed with a 14.6 percent increase, from 3,195 at the close of Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,663 at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. There were 3,810 juvenile cases pending in

TABLE CC-4
TERMINATIONS AS A PERCENTAGE
OF FILINGS IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS



* The percentage of filings that are terminated.

Montgomery County at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. That figure represents an increase of 13.5 percent over the previous year's total of 3,357 pending cases. Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties pending juvenile caseloads decreased 13.7 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively. There were 1,009 juvenile cases pending in Anne Arundel County at the close of Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the current level of 871 cases. Likewise, Prince George's County' pending juvenile caseload decreased from 2,061 at the close of Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,001 at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. The pending criminal caseload remained relatively consistent over the last two years, decreasing by less than one percent. There were 64,154 criminal cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 64,527 pending cases. Baltimore City's pending criminal caseload increased slightly (i.e., 1.3 percent), from 28,462 at the close of Fiscal Year 1995, to 28,844 cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties also reported increases in their pending criminal caseloads. There were 7,505 pending criminal cases reported by Prince George's County, an increase of 8.8 percent over the previous year's total of 6,897 cases. Baltimore County reported 5,514 pending criminal cases, an increase of 5.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 5,210 pending cases.

Trends

For the first time since Fiscal Year 1993, the circuit courts reported a general increase in filing activity. There were 268,399 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of approximately 2.3 percent over the previous

year's total of 262,322 filings. The reported increase follows a 3.1 percent decrease during Fiscal Year 1995. Contributing to the current increase was a 6.7 percent rise in civil filings, coupled with a 1.6 percent increase in criminal filings. The only functional area in which a reduction in filings was noted was in juvenile matters (i.e., 10.8 percent). Over the last five years, total filings have risen 2.6 percent, from 261,663 in Fiscal Year 1992, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 268,399 filings.

Civil filings rose approximately 5.7 percent over the last five years, from 149,229 in Fiscal Year 1992, to the current level of 157,743 filings. Contributing to the general increase was a 26.3 percent increase in domestic-related filings. There were 75,225 domestic-related case filings reported for Fiscal Year 1992. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 94,988 filings. A 10 percent rise in "other" general filings (e.g., injunctions, change of name and foreclosure), from 25,829 in Fiscal Year 1992, to 28,408 filings in Fiscal Year 1996, was a contributing factor to the general increase in civil filings as well. During the same time period, a reduction was noted in contract filings (i.e., 53.7 percent) and "other" law filings (e.g., conversion, detinue and ejectment); 49.2 percent. There were 15,374 contract filings reported during Fiscal Year 1992, compared to the current level of 7,122 filings. Likewise, "other" law filings decreased from 7,445 in Fiscal Year 1992, to 3,779 in Fiscal Year 1996. A change in the manner in which civil filings are reported by one Maryland jurisdiction was a contributing factor to the decline in both of the aforementioned categories. Other categorical fluctuations included a 12.4 percent decrease in motor tort filings; a 34.6 percent rise in

"other" tort filings (e.g., false imprisonment, libel and slander); and a 77.7 percent rise in appeals from the District Court.

Fiscal Year 1996 marked the first increase in criminal case filings since Fiscal Year 1992. There were 69,753 criminal filings reported by the circuit courts, an increase of 1.6 percent over the previous year when 68,672 filings were reported. The steady decline in criminal filings throughout the five-year period resulted in an overall decrease of 5.8 percent since Fiscal Year 1992. During that time period, jury trial prayers decreased 11.6 percent, contributing to the overall decline. There were 26,262 requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court during Fiscal Year 1992. That figure compares with the current level of 23,217 filings. Four of the five largest jurisdictions experienced a decrease in jury trial prayers from Fiscal Year 1992 to Fiscal Year 1996. A contributing factor to the decline in jury trial prayers was the implementation of an instant jury trial program in which those individuals requesting a jury trial at the District Court level are granted instant trials in the circuit courts. Table CC-5 provides a ten-year comparison of jury trial requests, outlining the five largest jurisdictions. During the same time period, "other" appeals (i.e., criminal matters) from the District Court increased 32.5 percent, from 2,153 in Fiscal Year 1992, to the current level of 2,852 filings, while motor vehicle appeals decreased 8.3 percent (i.e., from 2,405 in Fiscal Year 1992, to 2,205 in Fiscal Year 1996). Indictment and information filings remained relatively consistent during the five-year period, decreasing 1.6 percent, from 37,788 in Fiscal Year 1992, to the current level of 37,171 filings.

Juvenile filings decreased for the first time in five years. There

were 40,903 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, a decrease of 10.8 percent from the previous year's total of 45,866 filings. Since Fiscal Year 1992, there has been a net increase of 6.6 percent in juvenile filings. The current decrease can be attributed to decreases of 21.8 percent and 6.2 percent in C.I.N.A. and delinquency filings, respectively. During the last five years, a 16.4 percent increase was noted in C.I.N.A. filings. There were 9,162 C.I.N.A. cases filed during Fiscal Year 1992, compared

to the current level of 10,669 filings. Likewise, delinquency filings rose 4.4 percent, from 28,634 in Fiscal Year 1992, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 29,900 filings. The current decrease in both of the aforementioned categories, as well as in total juvenile filings, can be partly attributable to the manner in which the Quest system counts cases.

While faced with an increased caseload over the last five years, the circuit courts have managed to

maintain a relatively consistent or reduced average with respect to the time expended from filing to disposition of cases. The average civil filing to disposition time has decreased from 204 days in Fiscal Year 1992, to 180 days in Fiscal Year 1996. Juvenile disposition time decreased from 89 days, to the current level of 59 days, while the average time from filing to disposition of a criminal case rose slightly, from 112 days in Fiscal Year 1992, to 116 days in Fiscal Year 1996.

**TABLE CC-5
JURY TRIAL PRAYERS**

	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
Baltimore City*	7,407	8,698	8,714	7,905	4,061	3,140	3,450	4,317	4,293	3,752	3,255
Anne Arundel County	922	1,066	1,343	2,037	2,045	2,383	2,599	1,274	827	746	692
Baltimore County	3,363	4,348	4,683	5,499	5,691	4,002	2,952	2,409	2,835	2,356	2,354
Montgomery County	2,511	3,560	3,955	3,709	2,210	1,810	2,493	2,093	1,464	1,560	1,713
Prince George's County	4,348	4,003	3,111	2,937	3,314	2,955	3,297	2,757	2,836	2,652	3,628
All Other Counties	4,733	6,569	7,978	9,339	10,562	10,814	11,471	11,434	11,452	11,883	11,575
Total	23,284	28,244	29,784	31,428	27,883	25,104	28,282	24,284	23,707	22,949	23,217

*Based on number of defendants provided by the Criminal Assignment Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

TABLE CC-6
TOTAL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
FIRST CIRCUIT	5,446	12,004	11,140	6,310
Dorchester	1,019	1,928	1,773	1,174
Somerset	848	2,175	2,076	947
Wicomico	1,964	4,532	4,155	2,341
Worcester	1,615	3,369	3,136	1,848
SECOND CIRCUIT	5,076	11,400	10,438	6,038
Caroline	776	1,678	1,547	907
Cecil	2,751	4,982	4,287	3,446
Kent	475	1,432	1,392	515
Queen Anne's	485	1,686	1,632	539
Talbot	589	1,622	1,580	631
THIRD CIRCUIT	41,461	34,895	28,777	47,579
Baltimore	34,802	27,952	23,209	39,545
Harford	6,659	6,943	5,568	8,034
FOURTH CIRCUIT	6,319	11,263	10,241	7,341
Allegany	2,214	3,230	2,994	2,450
Garrett	566	1,168	1,074	660
Washington	3,539	6,865	6,173	4,231
FIFTH CIRCUIT	37,478	38,146	36,982	38,642
Anne Arundel	27,199	23,662	22,751	28,110
Carroll	4,762	5,937	6,036	4,663
Howard	5,517	8,547	8,195	5,869
SIXTH CIRCUIT	15,560	40,668	34,315	21,913
Frederick	3,533	5,749	4,120	5,162
Montgomery	12,027	34,919	30,195	16,751
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	47,175	60,081	52,748	54,508
Calvert	1,464	4,450	4,604	1,310
Charles	4,629	6,902	6,561	4,970
Prince George's	38,315	44,024	36,860	45,479
St. Mary's	2,767	4,705	4,723	2,749
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	129,407	59,942	35,886	153,463
Baltimore City	129,407	59,942	35,886	153,463
STATE	287,922	268,399	220,527	335,794

NOTE: The beginning inventory figures have been adjusted to reflect additions and deletions of cases resulting from routine maintenance and the removal of old cases that were actually terminated in a prior fiscal year. This adjustment is also reflected in Tables CC-18, CC-23, and CC-28.

TABLE CC-7
PERCENTAGES OF ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED
JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		JUVENILE		TOTAL (100%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
FIRST CIRCUIT	6,789	56.5	4,172	34.8	1,043	8.7	12,004
Dorchester	1,121	58.1	632	32.8	175	9.0	1,928
Somerset	1,441	66.3	535	24.6	199	9.1	2,175
Wicomico	2,371	52.3	1,808	39.9	353	7.8	4,532
Worcester	1,856	55.1	1,197	35.5	316	9.4	3,369
SECOND CIRCUIT	7,493	65.7	2,425	21.3	1,482	13.0	11,400
Caroline	1,312	78.2	203	12.1	163	9.7	1,678
Cecil	2,767	55.5	1,491	30.0	724	14.5	4,982
Kent	1,157	80.8	188	13.1	87	6.1	1,432
Queen Anne's	1,149	68.2	213	12.6	324	19.2	1,686
Talbot	1,108	68.3	330	20.4	184	11.3	1,622
THIRD CIRCUIT	19,565	56.0	9,890	28.4	5,440	15.6	34,895
Baltimore	15,574	55.7	7,789	27.9	4,589	16.4	27,952
Harford	3,991	57.5	2,101	30.3	851	12.2	6,943
FOURTH CIRCUIT	7,323	65.0	2,700	24.0	1,240	11.0	11,263
Allegany	2,297	71.1	617	19.1	316	9.8	3,230
Garrett	842	72.1	193	16.5	133	11.4	1,168
Washington	4,184	60.9	1,890	27.6	791	11.5	6,865
FIFTH CIRCUIT	22,522	59.0	9,940	26.1	5,684	14.9	38,146
Anne Arundel	15,010	63.4	4,917	20.8	3,735	15.8	23,662
Carroll	3,320	55.9	1,953	32.9	664	11.2	5,937
Howard	4,192	49.1	3,070	35.9	1,285	15.0	8,547
SIXTH CIRCUIT	26,072	64.1	6,815	16.8	7,781	19.1	40,668
Frederick	3,361	58.4	1,522	26.5	866	15.1	5,749
Montgomery	22,711	65.0	5,293	15.2	6,915	19.8	34,919
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	40,033	66.6	12,075	20.1	7,973	13.3	60,081
Calvert	2,819	63.3	879	19.8	752	16.9	4,450
Charles	4,584	66.4	1,502	21.8	816	11.8	6,902
Prince George's	29,293	66.5	8,851	20.1	5,880	13.4	44,024
St. Mary's	3,337	70.9	843	17.9	525	11.2	4,705
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	27,946	46.6	21,736	36.3	10,260	17.1	59,942
Baltimore City	27,946	46.6	21,736	36.3	10,260	17.1	59,942
STATE	157,743	58.8	69,753	26.0	40,903	15.2	268,399

*Juvenile cases heard at District Court level.

TABLE CC-8
CATEGORIES OF FILINGS
ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Cecilia	Kent	Queen Anne's	Telbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Cerroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Cheslee	Prince George's	Bt. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL
TOTAL CIVIL	1,121	1,441	2,371	1,856	1,312	2,797	1,157	1,149	1,108	1,574	2,287	842	4,184	15,010	3,320	4,182	3,361	22,711	2,818	4,584	29,293	3,337	27,948	157,743
MOTOR TORT	30	13	123	55	10	109	15	46	38	1,455	76	14	98	708	116	218	132	1,359	70	206	1,965	123	2,996	10,210
OTHER TORT	22	2	34	30	14	17	8	9	9	502	20	13	60	134	35	134	55	764	25	64	813	6	2,530	5,330
CONTRACT	6	3	62	60	15	20	17	14	39	1,088	17	15	63	684	53	280	148	2,764	18	79	934	55	524	7,122
CONDEMNATION	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	2	0	0	4	0	1	3	41	0	2	3	0	40	128
CONTESTED CONFESSION	5	0	5	1	0	0	0	5	0	40	0	0	0	1	0	8	3	109	0	0	7	0	123	307
JUDGMENT	44	51	70	18	19	127	17	1	0	91	115	17	6	123	3	0	115	1,794	54	0	612	345	7	3,779
APPEALS																								
District Court - on Record	6	0	2	8	5	7	4	1	7	51	11	3	13	29	13	14	9	69	7	10	51	10	82	417
District Court-de Novo	1	1	18	8	6	19	1	5	5	218	24	8	26	68	12	47	27	223	14	29	297	5	183	1,262
Administrative Agency	27	67	58	36	11	41	25	24	23	689	161	95	145	528	104	163	99	456	50	76	525	52	637	4,112
UNREPORTED LAW	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DIVORCE/MULTI	216	179	611	258	266	529	193	224	221	3,618	554	179	922	3,857	756	1,236	1,020	4,628	599	948	5,701	768	3,421	31,987
OTHER DOMESTIC RELATIONS	249	377	303	280	290	776	291	178	233	2,464	679	282	1,105	1,597	668	772	668	3,034	481	891	6,333	509	624	23,181
ADOPTION/GUARDIANSHIP	42	14	49	41	24	56	16	29	29	395	139	25	98	491	146	74	122	1,025	39	51	269	69	527	3,829
PATERNITY	353	586	687	588	502	666	467	315	343	1,429	504	124	959	2,992	217	490	557	1,421	1,044	1,469	7,335	1,236	7,840	32,678
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	28	50	13	14	45	38	46	13	24	289	301	33	97	97	351	106	9	481	81	225	221	64	663	3,313
OTHER GENERAL	89	77	323	476	104	347	56	279	131	3,144	506	97	576	3,563	837	630	382	3,304	325	521	4,205	61	7,738	28,408
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	3	9	5	2	1	15	1	6	6	82	10	12	15	134	9	9	12	1,239	12	13	22	34	11	1,678
TOTAL JUVENILE	175	199	353	318	163	724	87	324	184	4,588	851	133	781	3,735	864	1,285	866	6,815	752	816	5,890	525	10,280	40,903
DELINQUENCY	108	134	265	227	106	312	70	290	135	3,871	588	74	408	3,041	532	1,118	664	5,223	591	710	4,121	382	6,711	29,900
ADULT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	31	0	0	2	0	7	0	1	1	53
CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION	0	4	1	1	4	1	14	3	3	0	2	11	16	5	17	21	60	19	8	0	6	8	27	230
CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE	67	61	86	88	39	411	16	20	46	714	261	58	363	688	83	146	140	1,671	153	97	1,743	131	3,503	10,669
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	10	3	18	51
TOTAL CRIMINAL	632	535	1,808	1,197	203	1,491	188	213	330	7,788	2,101	183	1,880	4,817	1,853	3,070	1,522	5,283	879	1,502	8,851	843	21,736	69,753
INDICTMENT INFORMATION	252	168	693	343	92	336	66	123	188	4,003	823	88	538	3,508	655	1,213	498	2,650	474	757	4,580	252	14,558	37,171
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT																								
Motor Vehicle	14	6	27	27	7	19	7	19	13	427	83	8	39	288	86	195	95	382	17	40	128	6	257	2,205
Other	37	11	73	32	6	14	6	6	13	828	42	7	44	267	28	57	27	521	14	23	342	13	418	2,852
JURY TRIAL PRAYED MOTOR	45	96	273	342	31	598	20	26	43	379	478	26	473	223	316	638	362	528	146	277	1,194	159	421	7,177
JURY TRIAL PRAYED OTHER	208	239	698	445	56	468	82	27	69	1,915	620	58	639	469	762	960	537	1,187	214	374	2,434	408	5,624	18,830
NON SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	129
POST CONVICTION	13	0	32	1	3	16	3	7	0	10	0	7	20	8	0	7	0	12	4	14	70	0	330	557
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	62	15	12	7	8	40	4	5	4	55	43	1	36	152	106	2	3	14	10	17	103	4	128	832
STATE	1,828	2,175	4,532	3,369	1,878	4,882	1,432	1,686	1,822	27,882	6,943	3,230	1,168	6,865	23,682	5,937	8,547	34,818	4,450	8,902	44,024	4,705	58,942	268,398

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

TABLE CC-9
CATEGORIES OF TERMINATIONS
TERMINATIONS OF ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allsgany	Garrett	Weehington	Anne Arundel	Cerroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL
TOTAL CIVIL	1,025	1,387	2,032	1,687	1,178	2,270	1,095	1,132	1,036	11,717	2,975	2,112	772	3,627	14,088	3,404	3,928	1,855	18,653	2,825	4,251	22,964	3,308	9,345	116,964
MOTOR TORT	16	17	95	41	15	112	8	48	28	1,094	189	98	18	98	743	84	237	77	1,157	64	173	1,723	152	796	7,084
OTHER TORT	15	4	20	10	16	21	13	10	8	371	35	23	13	48	144	23	86	51	607	21	51	1,084	7	390	3,072
CONTRACT	9	4	62	65	8	33	12	11	34	797	72	12	17	67	634	72	296	115	2,661	31	61	859	41	140	6,133
CONDEMNATION	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	3	1	1	1	7	2	3	1	41	0	0	0	3	28	119
CONTESTED CONFESSION	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	31	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	1	111	1	0	6	0	15	193
JUDGMENT	28	53	40	15	7	116	11	2	1	194	132	87	22	1	344	1	0	41	1,492	55	1	467	186	6	3,302
OTHER LAW																									
APPEALS																									
District Court-on Record	3	0	2	10	3	5	4	2	7	38	10	5	3	13	32	11	14	4	60	7	8	61	3	64	367
District Court-de Novo	7	2	14	7	5	14	0	3	6	151	24	16	4	38	98	11	45	23	275	13	31	188	5	130	1,110
Administrative Agency	24	66	43	21	11	45	21	33	26	417	131	86	39	249	644	116	157	72	629	47	58	456	79	310	3,780
UNREPORTED LAW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIVORCE/NULLITY	173	166	568	231	215	486	176	210	197	3,084	845	494	164	824	3,600	783	1,172	768	3,472	622	913	4,671	837	668	25,341
OTHER DOMESTIC RELATIONS	232	362	253	230	259	579	281	183	216	1,671	374	85	232	949	1,515	742	676	196	2,329	520	848	4,723	509	186	18,150
ADOPTION/GUARDIANSHIP	35	10	51	35	24	51	7	27	26	308	136	91	18	91	483	143	73	108	883	40	55	239	83	312	3,329
PATERNITY	370	562	597	536	495	504	448	302	324	1,068	467	517	132	611	2,648	212	426	102	895	1,100	1,452	4,735	1,130	4,477	24,311
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	26	50	9	12	21	32	47	12	23	281	220	23	23	84	87	344	92	5	440	71	206	204	56	644	3,012
OTHER GENERAL	80	79	271	474	98	267	67	284	140	2,180	334	572	82	529	3,104	658	636	290	2,618	327	391	3,540	217	1,178	18,616
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	3	6	3	0	1	5	0	1	0	9	2	2	3	4	1	1	0	1	983	6	3	5	3	1	1,045
TOTAL JUVENILE	185	195	332	316	173	711	80	288	199	4,077	863	288	143	708	3,678	599	1,245	872	8,524	780	798	5,648	451	5,456	34,809
DELINQUENCY	99	127	245	226	110	294	61	270	150	3,372	601	197	77	357	3,003	490	1,092	693	4,812	601	702	3,895	326	4,320	26,220
ADULT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	46
CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION	0	0	1	1	6	3	1	11	3	0	2	10	3	17	5	12	12	45	18	9	0	7	7	8	181
CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE	66	68	86	89	42	414	18	17	46	702	260	92	63	332	671	73	141	132	1,591	170	87	1,745	117	1,119	8,141
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	9	21
TOTAL CRIMINAL	583	484	1,751	1,133	186	1,308	217	202	343	7,418	1,730	583	159	1,636	4,966	2,033	3,024	1,383	5,016	899	1,514	6,248	964	21,085	66,894
INDICTMENT INFORMATION	264	155	709	298	103	243	81	105	201	3,681	683	184	81	560	3,563	629	1,283	363	2,517	482	779	4,375	312	14,272	35,944
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT																									
Motor Vehicle	17	6	23	21	6	18	3	18	17	418	63	16	6	36	334	106	132	67	347	15	35	122	7	247	2,100
Other	34	6	59	30	9	13	3	5	23	827	40	28	7	39	277	32	48	33	499	11	29	367	13	469	2,901
JURY TRIAL PRAYED MOTOR	53	93	267	343	29	568	26	24	41	378	416	78	18	433	256	386	660	375	464	169	242	1,140	163	409	7,061
JURY TRIAL PRAYED OTHER	206	234	720	440	49	455	101	44	58	1,936	516	275	41	546	515	668	688	535	1,160	219	411	2,236	468	5,487	18,408
NON SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	2	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	178
POST CONVICTION	9	0	13	1	0	9	3	6	0	0	9	0	6	24	8	0	10	0	8	3	15	1	0	153	278
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	1	1	0	0	3	2	3	0	2	0	3	6	0	46	84
STATE	1,773	2,076	4,155	3,138	1,547	4,287	1,392	1,632	1,580	23,209	5,568	2,984	1,074	9,173	22,781	6,038	8,188	4,120	30,185	4,604	6,581	36,860	4,723	35,886	230,527

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

TABLE CC-10
COURT TRIALS, JURY TRIALS, AND HEARINGS BY
COUNTY, CIRCUIT, AND FUNCTIONAL AREA
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Gerrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Cerroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	STATE
CASES TRIED BY COUNTY & CIRCUIT																									
Civil																									
Court Trials	40	5	63	43	76	723	32	95	22	332	125	219	51	273	628	87	119	41	470	59	425	176	73	1,314	5,491
Jury Trials	15	5	31	21	5	127	2	22	13	151	29	24	3	53	156	21	53	28	249	23	47	135	26	329	1,568
Criminal																									
Court Trials	112	24	55	568	8	15	7	12	12	231	29	11	7	17	326	1,181	77	8	75	4	12	15	13	459	3,278
Jury Trials	42	31	61	23	19	20	15	18	30	109	45	34	9	36	100	42	50	37	183	14	61	225	30	238	1,472
COUNTY TOTALS																									
Court Trials	152	29	118	611	84	738	39	107	34	563	154	230	58	290	954	1,268	198	49	545	63	437	191	86	1,773	8,769
Jury Trials	57	36	92	44	24	147	17	40	43	260	74	58	12	89	256	63	103	65	432	37	108	360	56	587	3,040
TOTAL	209	65	210	655	108	885	58	147	77	823	228	288	70	379	1,210	1,331	299	114	977	100	545	551	142	2,340	11,809
CIRCUIT TOTALS																									
1ST CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials	910																	594						1,773	8,769
Jury Trials	229																	497						567	3,040
TOTAL	1,139																	1,091						2,340	11,809
2ND CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
3RD CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
4TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
5TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
6TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
7TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
8TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									
9TH CIRCUIT																									
Court Trials																									
Jury Trials																									
TOTAL																									

NOTE: Information on court and jury trials in Baltimore City was derived from a linear regression projection using statistics from the last five years for jury trials and the last five years for court trials. Information on court trials and jury trials in Montgomery County was derived from numbers provided by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Also, some differences may exist in the number of court trials for courts of similar size due to the recording of these events under incorrect headings. A reporting anomaly has occurred in which the Clerk's Office for the Circuit Court for Carroll County initiates all new criminal filings as involving a court trial; however, the Clerk's Office does not amend the case if it does not result in a court trial.

TABLE CC-11
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS
FISCAL YEAR 1996

	Ex Parte Hearing			Protective Order Hearing		
	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted
FIRST CIRCUIT						
Dorchester	26	18	69.23	17	6	35.29
Somerset	44	32	72.73	29	17	58.62
Wicomico	11	7	63.64	6	2	33.33
Worcester	9	5	55.56	6	5	83.33
SECOND CIRCUIT						
Caroline	44	38	86.36	41	30	73.17
Cecil	39	34	87.18	33	15	45.45
Kent	18	16	88.89	16	10	62.50
Queen Anne's	15	9	60.00	8	5	62.50
Talbot	22	13	59.09	13	10	76.92
THIRD CIRCUIT						
Baltimore	228	137	60.09	124	74	59.68
Harford	280	237	84.64	230	156	67.83
FOURTH CIRCUIT						
Allegany	24	18	75.00	17	12	70.59
Garrett	32	24	75.00	27	14	51.85
Washington	82	65	79.27	66	51	77.27
FIFTH CIRCUIT						
Anne Arundel	58	36	62.07	41	26	63.41
Carroll	286	221	77.27	223	137	61.43
Howard	66	41	62.12	39	23	58.97
SIXTH CIRCUIT						
Frederick	1	1	100.00	1	1	100.00
Montgomery	393	296	75.32	304	149	49.01
SEVENTH CIRCUIT						
Calvert	76	62	81.58	66	50	75.76
Charles	200	166	83.00	168	109	64.88
Prince George's	111	91	1.98	144	52	36.11
St. Mary's	63	52	82.54	44	27	61.36
EIGHTH CIRCUIT						
Baltimore City	512	426	83.20	445	183	41.12
STATE	2,640	2,045	77.46	2,108	1,164	55.22

NOTE: This table represents only those hearings that occurred in Fiscal Year 1996.

TABLE CC-12
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES AND
PERCENTAGE OF CIRCUIT COURT CASE FILINGS ORIGINATING FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	STATE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES LAW District Court-De Novo District Court-On Record Administrative Agencies Subtotal CRIMINAL Motor Vehicle Appeals Others Subtotal TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF CIRCUIT COURT CASE FILINGS ORIGINATING FROM THE DISTRICT COURT Prayers for Jury Trials and Appeals: County Circuit Circuit Court Filings: County Circuit Percentage of Circuit Court Filings that are Jury Trial Prayers and Appeals: County Circuit	Baltimore City					St. Mary's Prince George's Charles Calvert					Montgomery Frederick					Howard Cerroil Anne Arundel					Washington Gerrett Allegeny					Harford Baltimore					Talbot Queen Anne's Kent Cecil Caroline					Worcester Wicomico Somerset Dorchester																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	1	6	27	8	14	37	51	85	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	312	1,928	16.2	27	8	14	37	51	85	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35	111	1	6	19	7	19	35

TABLE CC-13
AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION
FISCAL 1994-1996

	CIVIL			CRIMINAL			JUVENILE		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
FIRST CIRCUIT									
Dorchester	183	206	185	101	133	139	55	59	47
Somerset	117	116	125	82	84	90	19	13	16
Wicomico	204	212	157	117	105	107	38	40	40
Worcester	194	175	164	108	77	83	45	39	45
SECOND CIRCUIT									
Caroline	162	188	186	142	140	154	39	26	15
Cecil	163	163	176	157	167	177	72	73	74
Kent	170	181	171	140	142	131	75	56	56
Queen Anne's	163	175	169	118	133	131	57	52	55
Talbot	171	159	177	127	133	130	47	50	74
THIRD CIRCUIT									
Baltimore	187	179	184	80	82	81	59	65	62
Harford	184	194	162	145	145	137	71	82	90
FOURTH CIRCUIT									
Allegany	246	200	237	138	137	164	67	76	66
Garrett	144	161	183	133	121	129	50	46	47
Washington	174	168	161	138	129	124	61	62	56
FIFTH CIRCUIT									
Anne Arundel	214	228	227	136	135	135	63	69	69
Carroll	213	192	176	122	128	132	53	74	78
Howard	242	254	235	134	138	144	66	69	74
SIXTH CIRCUIT									
Frederick	225	176	170	160	172	161	84	82	86
Montgomery	150	88	114	113	93	94	110	112	98
SEVENTH CIRCUIT									
Calvert	207	231	224	132	136	122	82	88	100
Charles	189	182	177	162	159	164	82	80	77
Prince George's	209	209	199	125	121	114	77	80	71
St. Mary's	192	193	209	142	158	131	80	77	78
EIGHTH CIRCUIT									
Baltimore City	227	278	262	93	96	112	88	9	11
STATE	194	174	180	112	113	116	79	61	59

NOTE: A small number of lengthy cases can increase an average, particularly in a jurisdiction with a small caseload. For that reason, civil cases over 721 days old, criminal cases over 360 days old, and juvenile cases over 271 days old have been excluded in the above calculations. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the cases are disposed of within those time periods.

TABLE CC-14
POPULATION IN RELATION TO CIRCUIT COURT CASELOAD

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Population*	POPULATION AND CASELOAD PER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE				CASES FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT PER THOUSAND POPULATION			RATIO OF JURY TRIALS TO POPULATION	
		No. of Judges	Population per Judge	Cases Filed Per Judge		Cases Terminated Per Judge		Total	No. of Jury Trials	Per 1000 Population
				Civil**	Criminal	Civil**	Criminal			
FIRST CIRCUIT										
Dorchester***	30,400	1.13	26,903	1,147	559	1,053	516	43 21 64	57	1.88
Somerset	23,900	1.0	23,900	1,640	535	1,582	494	69 22 91	36	1.51
Wicomico***	80,500	2.87	28,049	949	630	824	624	34 22 56	92	1.14
Worcester	40,700	2.0	20,350	1,086	599	1,002	567	53 29 82	44	1.08
SECOND CIRCUIT										
Caroline	29,500	1.0	29,500	1,475	203	1,351	196	50 7 57	24	0.81
Cecil	79,600	3.0	26,533	1,164	497	994	435	44 19 63	147	1.85
Kent	19,000	1.0	19,000	1,244	188	1,175	217	65 10 75	17	0.89
Queen Anne's	37,000	1.0	37,000	1,473	213	1,430	202	40 6 46	40	1.08
Talbot	32,600	1.0	32,600	1,292	330	1,237	343	40 10 50	43	1.32
THIRD CIRCUIT										
Baltimore	718,000	15.0	47,867	1,344	519	1,053	494	28 11 39	260	0.36
Harford	211,700	5.0	42,340	968	420	768	346	23 10 33	74	0.35
FOURTH CIRCUIT										
Allegany	73,200	2.0	36,600	1,307	309	1,206	292	36 8 44	58	0.79
Garrett	29,800	1.0	29,800	975	193	915	159	33 6 39	12	0.40
Washington	128,800	4.0	32,200	1,244	473	1,134	410	39 15 54	89	0.69
FIFTH CIRCUIT										
Anne Arundel	467,400	9.0	51,933	2,083	546	1,974	554	40 11 51	256	0.55
Carroll	142,300	3.0	47,433	1,328	651	1,334	678	28 14 42	63	0.44
Howard	225,800	5.0	45,160	1,095	614	1,034	605	24 14 38	103	0.46
SIXTH CIRCUIT										
Frederick	181,000	4.0	45,250	1,057	381	682	348	23 8 31	65	0.36
Montgomery****	819,000	16.0	51,188	1,419	331	1,166	314	28 6 34	432	0.53
SEVENTH CIRCUIT										
Calvert	67,200	2.0	33,600	1,786	440	1,853	450	53 13 68	37	0.55
Charles	113,200	4.0	28,300	1,350	376	1,262	379	48 13 61	108	0.95
Prince George's	780,000	20.0	39,000	1,759	443	1,431	412	45 11 56	360	0.46
St. Mary's	82,500	2.0	41,250	1,931	422	1,880	482	47 10 57	56	0.68
EIGHTH CIRCUIT										
Baltimore City*****	689,100	26.0	26,504	1,469	836	569	811	55 32 87	567	0.82
STATE	5,102,200	132.0	38,653	1,453	528	1,114	507	38 14 52	3,040	0.60

*Population estimate for July 1, 1996, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

**Juvenile causes in Montgomery County are not included since they are heard at the District Court level. Juvenile causes in all other counties are included in the civil category.

***Dorchester and Wicomico Counties share one judge.

****Information on court trials and jury trials in Montgomery based on numbers provided by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.

*****The number of jury trials for Baltimore City was based on a linear regression projection using statistics from the last five years.

TABLE CC-15
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
APPEALS FROM THE DISTRICT COURT AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-1992		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies
FIRST CIRCUIT	204	151	191	176	266	175	227	176	271	166
Dorchester	52	40	43	29	69	27	69	27	58	27
Somerset	27	38	29	45	34	46	21	62	18	67
Wicomico	58	57	62	81	97	75	67	46	120	58
Worcester	67	16	57	23	68	27	70	41	75	36
SECOND CIRCUIT	177	105	170	129	175	140	170	115	170	124
Caroline	17	9	28	15	19	14	27	10	24	11
Cecil	90	44	61	65	71	52	57	39	59	41
Kent	15	8	10	8	14	30	10	15	18	25
Queen Anne's	14	20	31	21	38	22	27	22	31	24
Talbot	41	24	40	20	33	22	49	29	38	23
THIRD CIRCUIT	1,259	779	1,296	900	1,460	960	1,563	933	1,662	650
Baltimore	1,093	590	1,142	730	1,316	802	1,410	775	1,522	689
Harford	166	189	156	170	164	178	153	158	160	161
FOURTH CIRCUIT	157	231	156	232	226	257	216	266	210	260
Allegany	59	103	47	84	53	84	72	84	64	95
Garrett	16	27	16	36	13	30	17	32	24	20
Washington	82	101	95	112	160	143	129	170	122	145
FIFTH CIRCUIT	957	636	1,014	690	1,020	751	1,101	604	1,104	795
Anne Arundel	476	424	508	436	564	512	684	538	652	528
Carroll	201	89	230	125	206	95	181	123	139	104
Howard	280	125	276	129	250	144	236	143	313	163
SIXTH CIRCUIT	1,440	456	1,228	543	1,294	590	1,292	545	1,353	555
Frederick	172	65	140	86	144	83	176	86	158	99
Montgomery	1,268	391	1,088	457	1,150	507	1,116	459	1,195	456
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	442	568	456	614	638	710	649	618	1,006	703
Calvert	42	36	32	43	32	39	57	36	52	50
Charles	71	59	60	67	83	75	83	62	102	76
Prince George's	308	451	353	464	498	541	678	465	818	525
St. Mary's	21	42	11	40	25	55	31	55	34	52
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	667	671	940	660	1,106	769	1,099	679	940	637
Baltimore City	867	871	940	680	1,108	769	1,099	679	940	637
STATE	5,503	3,619	5,455	3,966	6,209	4,372	6,519	4,156	6,736	4,112

TABLE CC-16
APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW OF CRIMINAL SENTENCES
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Filed During Year	Withdrawn by Applicant	TERMINATED, CONSIDERED, AND DISPOSED OF		
			Original Sentence Unchanged	Original Sentence Increased	Original Sentence Decreased
FIRST CIRCUIT					
Dorchester	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	2	0	2	0	0
Wicomico	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	0	0	0	0
SECOND CIRCUIT					
Caroline	0	0	0	0	0
Cecil	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	0	1	0	0
Queen Anne's	9	0	8	0	0
Talbot	0	0	0	0	0
THIRD CIRCUIT					
Baltimore	44	11	40	1	0
Harford	10	0	12	0	1
FOURTH CIRCUIT					
Allegany	2	0	2	0	0
Garrett	2	0	4	0	0
Washington	8	0	7	0	1
FIFTH CIRCUIT					
Anne Arundel	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	9	2	2	0	0
SIXTH CIRCUIT					
Frederick	7	2	7	0	5
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0
SEVENTH CIRCUIT					
Calvert	2	0	2	0	0
Charles	22	0	24	0	1
Prince George's	62	16	34	0	0
St. Mary's	0	0	0	0	0
EIGHTH CIRCUIT					
Baltimore City	94	0	96	1	0
STATE	274	31	241	2	8

TABLE CC-17
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
FIRST CIRCUIT	6,373	6,660	6,645	6,663	6,463	6,216	6,276	6,011	6,789	6,131
Dorchester	1,360	1,124	1,398	1,432	1,286	1,244	1,005	929	1,121	1,025
Somerset	1,061	964	1,299	1,130	1,199	1,182	1,303	1,250	1,441	1,387
Wicomico	2,305	2,398	2,502	2,236	2,263	2,045	2,141	2,205	2,371	2,032
Worcester	1,647	1,376	1,646	1,785	1,715	1,747	1,826	1,627	1,856	1,887
SECOND CIRCUIT	6,612	6,441	6,596	6,466	6,479	6,315	6,762	6,376	7,493	6,713
Caroline	1,064	1,060	1,087	1,008	964	889	1,157	1,064	1,312	1,178
Cecil	2,677	2,373	2,631	2,454	2,513	2,479	2,586	2,298	2,787	2,270
Kent	1,146	1,043	927	998	1,075	1,003	967	975	1,157	1,095
Queen Anne's	901	970	953	1,000	895	912	959	956	1,149	1,132
Talbot	1,024	995	998	1,008	1,032	1,032	1,093	1,082	1,108	1,038
THIRD CIRCUIT	19,334	16,512	19,169	17,964	19,316	17,313	16,940	15,919	19,565	14,692
Baltimore	15,088	12,108	15,098	14,693	15,300	14,023	14,957	11,990	15,574	11,717
Harford	4,246	4,404	4,071	3,261	4,018	3,290	3,983	3,929	3,991	2,975
FOURTH CIRCUIT	6,092	6,641	6,976	6,416	6,606	7,206	6,161	6,585	7,323	6,711
Allegany	1,805	1,813	2,030	1,864	2,412	2,542	1,796	1,724	2,297	2,112
Garrett	863	852	818	822	893	814	870	778	842	772
Washington	3,424	2,976	3,130	2,732	3,503	3,852	3,515	3,083	4,184	3,827
FIFTH CIRCUIT	22,111	17,904	23,401	23,046	23,962	23,676	21,665	20,466	22,622	21,416
Anne Arundel	15,537	11,727	16,358	17,233	17,205	16,610	14,759	13,172	15,010	14,086
Carroll	2,903	2,371	3,206	2,305	3,146	3,125	3,248	3,143	3,320	3,404
Howard	3,671	3,806	3,837	3,508	3,611	3,841	3,848	4,171	4,192	3,928
SIXTH CIRCUIT	30,548	20,877	35,055	28,703	33,350	28,108	24,381	20,394	28,072	20,608
Frederick	3,230	2,287	2,944	2,824	3,141	2,761	3,027	2,327	3,381	1,855
Montgomery	27,318	18,390	32,111	23,879	30,209	23,345	21,354	18,067	22,711	18,853
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	34,228	29,688	33,880	29,773	36,114	31,313	36,640	34,078	40,033	33,446
Calvert	1,411	1,338	1,352	1,352	1,320	1,199	2,068	2,157	2,819	2,925
Charles	3,684	3,364	3,608	3,327	3,813	3,371	4,451	3,883	4,584	4,251
Prince George's	26,457	22,877	26,206	23,113	28,549	24,665	29,544	25,630	29,293	22,964
St. Mary's	2,674	2,289	2,494	1,981	2,432	2,078	2,577	2,408	3,337	3,308
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	23,733	21,926	27,461	23,322	24,511	14,074	24,760	8,762	27,946	9,346
Baltimore City	23,733	21,926	27,461	23,322	24,511	14,074	24,750	8,762	27,946	9,345
STATE	149,229	124,629	158,185	139,267	157,005	132,123	147,764	117,610	157,743	116,984

NOTE: A civil case is reopened statistically at the time a pleading is filed (i.e. a Motion for Modification of Decree is filed in a divorce case after the final decree has been issued). In a few jurisdictions, a civil case is not reopened statistically until the time a hearing is held on a case with post-judgment activity.

TABLE CC-18
CIVIL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
FIRST CIRCUIT	3,657	8,789	8,131	4,315
Dorchester	644	1,121	1,025	740
Somerset	658	1,441	1,387	712
Wicomico	1,222	2,371	2,032	1,561
Worcester	1,133	1,856	1,687	1,302
SECOND CIRCUIT	3,105	7,493	8,713	3,885
Caroline	649	1,312	1,178	783
Cecil	1,413	2,767	2,270	1,910
Kent	312	1,157	1,095	374
Queen Anne's	367	1,149	1,132	384
Talbot	364	1,108	1,038	434
THIRD CIRCUIT	30,538	19,585	14,892	35,411
Baltimore	26,511	15,574	11,717	30,368
Harford	4,027	3,991	2,975	5,043
FOURTH CIRCUIT	4,790	7,323	8,711	5,402
Allegany	1,812	2,297	2,112	1,997
Garrett	462	842	772	532
Washington	2,516	4,184	3,827	2,873
FIFTH CIRCUIT	27,880	22,522	21,418	28,788
Anne Arundel	21,379	15,010	14,086	22,303
Carroll	2,445	3,320	3,404	2,361
Howard	3,856	4,192	3,926	4,122
SIXTH CIRCUIT	7,858	26,072	20,508	13,420
Frederick	2,289	3,361	1,855	3,795
Montgomery	5,567	22,711	18,653	9,625
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	35,987	40,033	33,448	42,552
Calvert	1,029	2,819	2,925	923
Charles	3,361	4,584	4,251	3,694
Prince George's	29,644	29,293	22,964	35,973
St. Mary's	1,933	3,337	3,308	1,962
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	79,966	27,946	9,345	98,567
Baltimore City	79,966	27,946	9,345	98,567
STATE	193,559	157,743	118,964	232,338

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

TABLE CC-19
CIVIL CASES
RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
FIRST CIRCUIT	6,131	223	3.6	151	2.5	72	1.2
Dorchester	1,025	55	5.4	40	3.9	15	1.5
Somerset	1,387	10	0.7	5	0.4	5	0.4
Wicomico	2,032	94	4.6	63	3.1	31	1.5
Worcester	1,687	64	3.8	43	2.5	21	1.2
SECOND CIRCUIT	6,713	1,117	16.6	948	14.1	169	2.5
Caroline	1,178	81	6.9	76	6.5	5	0.4
Cecil	2,270	850	37.4	723	31.9	127	5.6
Kent	1,095	34	3.1	32	2.9	2	0.2
Queen Anne's	1,132	117	10.3	95	8.4	22	1.9
Talbot	1,038	35	3.4	22	2.1	13	1.3
THIRD CIRCUIT	14,892	637	4.3	457	3.1	180	1.2
Baltimore	11,717	483	4.1	332	2.8	151	1.3
Harford	2,975	154	5.2	125	4.2	29	1.0
FOURTH CIRCUIT	6,711	623	9.3	543	8.1	80	1.2
Allegany	2,112	243	11.5	219	10.4	24	1.1
Garrett	772	54	7.0	51	6.6	3	0.4
Washington	3,827	326	8.5	273	7.1	53	1.4
FIFTH CIRCUIT	21,416	1,064	5.0	834	3.9	230	1.1
Anne Arundel	14,086	784	5.6	628	4.5	156	1.1
Carroll	3,404	108	3.2	87	2.6	21	0.6
Howard	3,926	172	4.4	119	3.0	53	1.3
SIXTH CIRCUIT	20,508	788	3.8	511	2.5	277	1.4
Frederick	1,855	69	3.7	41	2.2	28	1.5
Montgomery	18,653	719	3.9	470	2.5	249	1.3
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	33,448	964	2.9	733	2.2	231	0.7
Calvert	2,925	82	2.8	59	2.0	23	0.8
Charles	4,251	472	11.1	425	10.0	47	1.1
Prince George's	22,964	311	1.4	176	0.8	135	0.6
St. Mary's	3,308	99	3.0	73	2.2	26	0.8
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	9,345	1,643	17.6	1,314	14.1	329	3.5
Baltimore City	9,345	1,643	17.6	1,314	14.1	329	3.5
STATE	118,964	7,059	5.9	5,491	4.6	1,568	1.3

TABLE CC-20
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL CASES TRIED

FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
FIRST CIRCUIT	335	288	452	320	223
Dorchester	59	131	298	52	55
Somerset	10	12	8	32	10
Wicomico	177	96	69	155	94
Worcester	89	49	77	81	64
SECOND CIRCUIT	757	786	833	917	1,117
Caroline	167	176	129	91	81
Cecil	393	391	502	587	850
Kent	21	46	43	60	34
Queen Anne's	116	108	105	121	117
Talbot	60	65	54	58	35
THIRD CIRCUIT	883	1,049	1,091	755	637
Baltimore	744	907	963	617	483
Harford	139	142	128	138	154
FOURTH CIRCUIT	301	309	406	326	623
Allegany	87	38	48	77	243
Garrett	111	142	109	40	54
Washington	103	129	251	211	326
FIFTH CIRCUIT	749	655	1,368	1,304	1,064
Anne Arundel	397	456	1,040	1,027	784
Carroll	71	157	153	116	108
Howard	281	242	175	161	172
SIXTH CIRCUIT	633	1,007	1,021	1,093	788
Frederick	104	84	55	72	69
Montgomery	529	923	966	1,021	719
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	2,878	3,244	1,978	1,034	964
Calvert	158	129	302	253	82
Charles	381	512	553	382	472
Prince George's	2,292	2,557	1,089	334	311
St. Mary's	47	46	34	65	99
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	1,743	1,669	1,630	1,675	1,643
Baltimore City	1,743	1,669	1,630	1,675	1,643
STATE	6,279	9,207	6,761	7,426	7,059

NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.

TABLE CC-21

CIVIL—AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES AND CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Number of Cases	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:				
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 721 Days	81 Days	181 Days	381 Days	721 Days	1081 Days
FIRST CIRCUIT								
Dorchester	656	237	185	33.1	58.4	78.5	94.5	98.5
Somerset	721	173	125	47.0	72.4	85.2	95.7	97.9
Wicomico	1,410	220	157	34.6	63.2	79.6	92.0	98.8
Worcester	998	198	164	30.4	62.2	84.2	95.8	99.8
SECOND CIRCUIT								
Caroline	437	340	186	21.5	57.7	73.0	88.6	96.8
Cecil	1,286	278	176	29.5	56.8	73.3	89.1	97.9
Kent	347	216	171	32.9	64.0	77.8	94.2	98.6
Queen Anne's	688	194	169	28.2	62.9	84.2	97.4	99.0
Talbot	555	212	177	33.7	64.0	78.9	95.9	98.7
THIRD CIRCUIT								
Baltimore	10,109	258	184	29.9	57.0	76.9	93.7	97.5
Harford	2,577	244	162	32.2	61.2	78.3	91.1	97.3
FOURTH CIRCUIT								
Allegany	1,461	291	237	19.4	47.3	68.2	92.6	98.2
Garrett	538	218	183	27.5	61.5	77.3	95.4	98.9
Washington	2,554	233	161	40.3	62.6	76.0	91.4	97.9
FIFTH CIRCUIT								
Anne Arundel	8,111	353	227	20.1	45.3	62.8	86.8	95.0
Carroll	2,515	258	176	34.7	56.8	72.6	90.3	96.9
Howard	2,991	314	235	17.6	45.6	65.9	90.2	96.9
SIXTH CIRCUIT								
Frederick	1,660	263	170	24.1	60.8	75.1	89.3	95.7
Montgomery	16,125	155	114	51.7	71.1	86.9	96.4	98.1
SEVENTH CIRCUIT								
Calvert	1,144	300	224	19.6	49.9	69.2	91.8	97.2
Charles	2,093	367	177	27.1	53.2	69.9	83.1	89.6
Prince George's	16,069	349	199	20.2	49.9	70.3	85.8	94.1
St. Mary's	1,562	450	209	17.3	44.4	63.1	78.4	86.7
EIGHTH CIRCUIT								
Baltimore City	4,364	508	262	20.7	35.1	50.3	81.1	90.0
STATE	80,971	284	180	30.4	55.9	73.7	90.2	95.9

NOTE: This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties, the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.

TABLE CC-22
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CRIMINAL CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
FIRST CIRCUIT	3,603	3,379	3,617	3,492	3,655	3,450	3,620	3,456	4,172	4,001
Dorchester	659	598	496	503	595	466	633	539	632	583
Somerset	588	593	590	670	615	534	528	617	535	494
Wlcomico	1,255	1,233	1,227	1,059	1,375	1,239	1,451	1,319	1,808	1,791
Worcester	1,101	955	1,304	1,260	1,070	1,211	1,008	981	1,197	1,133
SECOND CIRCUIT	2,335	2,145	2,111	1,960	2,299	2,045	2,535	2,122	2,425	2,264
Caroline	187	207	200	173	186	154	228	185	203	196
Cecil	1,271	1,118	1,136	1,018	1,224	1,097	1,454	1,174	1,491	1,306
Kent	225	215	198	238	263	222	265	240	188	217
Queen Anne's	205	213	192	187	224	196	171	180	213	202
Talbot	447	392	385	364	402	376	417	343	330	343
THIRD CIRCUIT	9,601	9,503	9,327	6,772	9,595	6,911	9,519	9,113	9,690	9,145
Baltimore	7,200	7,212	6,801	6,575	7,328	7,047	7,225	7,092	7,789	7,415
Harford	2,601	2,291	2,526	2,197	2,267	1,864	2,294	2,021	2,101	1,730
FOURTH CIRCUIT	2,124	1,969	2,052	2,026	2,601	2,325	2,642	2,696	2,700	2,360
Allegany	442	433	483	465	544	492	619	574	617	583
Garrett	153	142	124	116	102	114	142	92	193	159
Washington	1,529	1,394	1,445	1,447	1,955	1,719	2,081	2,230	1,890	1,638
FIFTH CIRCUIT	12,995	11,791	11,365	11,232	10,097	9,516	10,330	9,566	9,940	10,043
Anne Arundel	7,626	6,538	6,174	6,237	5,439	4,922	5,279	4,911	4,917	4,986
Carroll	2,059	1,802	2,482	2,148	2,240	2,109	2,106	1,900	1,953	2,033
Howard	3,310	3,451	2,729	2,847	2,418	2,485	2,945	2,755	3,070	3,024
SIXTH CIRCUIT	7,717	5,401	7,784	5,676	6,212	4,639	6,221	4,946	6,615	6,411
Frederick	1,365	1,232	1,570	1,336	1,394	1,194	1,418	1,225	1,522	1,393
Montgomery	6,352	4,169	6,214	4,540	4,818	3,445	4,803	3,723	5,293	5,018
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	12,467	10,623	11,709	10,814	11,294	11,026	11,277	10,742	12,075	11,625
Calvert	1,034	971	960	983	953	898	1,092	997	879	899
Charles	1,310	1,104	1,214	1,140	1,265	1,227	1,518	1,268	1,502	1,514
Prince George's	9,005	7,864	8,442	7,688	7,906	7,806	7,642	7,432	8,851	8,248
St. Mary's	1,118	884	1,093	1,003	1,170	1,097	1,025	1,045	843	964
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	23,020	23,447	21,651	22,233	23,174	22,161	22,326	20,137	21,736	21,065
Baltimore City	23,020	23,447	21,851	22,233	23,174	22,161	22,328	20,137	21,736	21,085
STATE	74,062	68,458	69,836	66,427	68,927	64,075	68,672	62,960	69,753	66,954

TABLE CC-23
CRIMINAL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

JULY 1, 1995--JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
FIRST CIRCUIT	1,513	4,172	4,001	1,684
Dorchester	289	632	583	338
Somerset	160	535	494	201
Wicomico	636	1,808	1,791	653
Worcester	428	1,197	1,133	492
SECOND CIRCUIT	1,652	2,425	2,264	1,813
Caroline	110	203	196	117
Cecil	1,126	1,491	1,306	1,311
Kent	135	188	217	106
Queen Anne's	99	213	202	110
Talbot	182	330	343	169
THIRD CIRCUIT	7,617	9,890	9,145	8,362
Baltimore	5,140	7,789	7,415	5,514
Harford	2,477	2,101	1,730	2,848
FOURTH CIRCUIT	1,305	2,700	2,380	1,625
Allegany	342	617	583	376
Garrett	78	193	159	112
Washington	885	1,890	1,638	1,137
FIFTH CIRCUIT	7,992	9,940	10,043	7,889
Anne Arundel	5,005	4,917	4,986	4,936
Carroll	1,815	1,953	2,033	1,735
Howard	1,172	3,070	3,024	1,218
SIXTH CIRCUIT	4,101	6,815	6,411	4,505
Frederick	1,060	1,522	1,393	1,189
Montgomery	3,041	5,293	5,018	3,316
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	8,982	12,075	11,625	9,432
Calvert	326	879	899	306
Charles	1,102	1,502	1,514	1,090
Prince George's	6,902	8,851	8,248	7,505
St. Mary's	652	843	964	531
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	28,193	21,736	21,085	28,844
Baltimore City	28,193	21,736	21,085	28,844
STATE	61,355	69,753	66,954	64,154

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

TABLE CC-24
CRIMINAL CASES
RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS
JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
FIRST CIRCUIT	4,001	916	22.9	759	19.0	157	3.9
Dorchester	583	154	26.4	112	19.2	42	7.2
Somerset	494	55	11.1	24	4.9	31	6.3
Wicomico	1,791	116	6.5	55	3.1	61	3.4
Worcester	1,133	591	52.2	568	50.1	23	2.0
SECOND CIRCUIT	2,264	156	6.9	54	2.4	102	4.5
Caroline	196	27	13.8	8	4.1	19	9.7
Cecil	1,306	35	2.7	15	1.1	20	1.5
Kent	217	22	10.1	7	3.2	15	6.9
Queen Anne's	202	30	14.9	12	5.9	18	8.9
Talbot	343	42	12.4	12	3.6	30	8.9
THIRD CIRCUIT	9,145	414	4.5	260	2.8	154	1.7
Baltimore	7,415	340	4.6	231	3.1	109	1.5
Harford	1,730	74	4.3	29	1.7	45	2.6
FOURTH CIRCUIT	2,380	114	4.8	35	1.5	79	3.3
Allegany	583	45	7.7	11	1.9	34	5.8
Garrett	159	16	10.1	7	4.4	9	5.7
Washington	1,638	53	3.2	17	1.0	36	2.2
FIFTH CIRCUIT	10,043	1,776	17.7	1,584	15.8	192	1.9
Anne Arundel	4,986	426	8.5	326	6.5	100	2.0
Carroll	2,033	1,223	60.2	1,181	58.1	42	2.1
Howard	3,024	127	4.2	77	2.5	50	1.7
SIXTH CIRCUIT	6,411	303	4.7	83	1.3	220	3.4
Frederick	1,393	45	3.2	8	0.6	37	2.7
Montgomery	5,018	258	5.1	75	1.5	183	3.6
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	11,625	374	3.2	44	0.4	330	2.8
Calvert	899	18	2.0	4	0.4	14	1.6
Charles	1,514	73	4.8	12	0.8	61	4.0
Prince George's	8,248	240	2.9	15	0.2	225	2.7
St. Mary's	964	43	4.5	13	1.3	30	3.1
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	21,085	697	3.3	459	2.2	238	1.1
Baltimore City	21,085	697	3.3	459	2.2	238	1.1
STATE	66,954	4,750	7.1	3,278	4.9	1,472	2.2

NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.

TABLE CC-25
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CRIMINAL CASES TRIED
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
FIRST CIRCUIT	1,041	1,046	928	766	916
Dorchester	175	95	67	57	154
Somerset	103	82	64	75	55
Wicomico	223	163	162	143	116
Worcester	540	706	635	493	591
SECOND CIRCUIT	298	297	351	248	156
Caroline	26	20	25	22	27
Cecil	63	47	40	37	35
Kent	0	1	5	13	22
Queen Anne's	22	20	25	21	30
Talbot	187	209	256	155	42
THIRD CIRCUIT	529	585	551	466	414
Baltimore	444	501	470	408	340
Harford	85	84	81	58	74
FOURTH CIRCUIT	147	126	144	125	114
Allegany	33	43	35	37	45
Garrett	29	19	9	15	16
Washington	85	64	100	73	53
FIFTH CIRCUIT	1,934	2,376	2,188	1,834	1,776
Anne Arundel	1,481	619	537	415	426
Carroll	107	1,463	1,468	1,256	1,223
Howard	346	294	183	163	127
SIXTH CIRCUIT	344	307	259	299	303
Frederick	47	31	32	53	45
Montgomery	297	276	227	246	258
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	779	730	792	646	374
Calvert	47	51	39	48	18
Charles	75	74	60	57	73
Prince George's	279	188	225	176	240
St. Mary's	378	417	468	365	43
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	1,052	756	700	720	697
Baltimore City	1,052	756	700	720	697
STATE	6,124	6,223	5,913	5,106	4,750

NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.

TABLE CC-26

**CRIMINAL—AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES
AND CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS**

**JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996**

	Number of Cases	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:				
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 360 Days	61 Days	91 Days	121 Days	181 Days	361 Days
FIRST CIRCUIT								
Dorchester	399	157	139	6.5	21.3	44.9	72.7	95.0
Somerset	385	107	90	26.0	59.0	80.3	91.9	97.7
Wicomico	1,369	113	107	16.9	41.3	67.6	88.3	98.3
Worcester	997	87	83	30.0	72.2	83.4	94.7	99.2
SECOND CIRCUIT								
Caroline	147	170	154	8.8	17.7	29.3	59.9	94.6
Cecil	1,026	188	177	2.3	4.4	10.5	53.5	96.8
Kent	127	148	131	9.4	22.0	40.2	77.2	96.1
Queen Anne's	144	133	131	14.6	33.3	51.4	70.8	99.3
Talbot	246	130	130	8.9	20.7	45.9	87.4	100.0
THIRD CIRCUIT								
Baltimore	4,793	134	81	42.4	60.7	75.3	88.8	97.5
Harford	1,137	219	137	20.6	32.7	43.7	59.2	85.0
FOURTH CIRCUIT								
Allegany	516	177	164	14.5	20.7	28.5	54.7	96.3
Garrett	141	134	129	15.6	29.1	50.4	75.9	98.6
Washington	1,187	159	124	8.6	34.5	57.5	79.2	96.0
FIFTH CIRCUIT								
Anne Arundel	2,354	166	135	15.3	27.4	43.0	71.9	96.1
Carroll	1,206	152	132	7.0	27.1	48.7	77.9	95.1
Howard	1,293	205	144	5.8	28.9	40.8	68.2	93.0
SIXTH CIRCUIT								
Frederick	1,363	190	161	5.2	15.6	36.8	60.3	91.3
Montgomery	2,977	110	94	37.8	55.2	67.1	84.8	97.6
SEVENTH CIRCUIT								
Calvert	474	125	122	23.2	39.9	54.9	81.0	98.7
Charles	1,198	180	164	4.7	10.9	23.3	61.3	95.3
Prince George's	6,457	142	114	20.4	37.4	56.2	77.5	94.4
St. Mary's	767	163	131	14.6	30.0	47.7	73.5	93.9
EIGHTH CIRCUIT								
Baltimore City	15,017	145	112	33.9	43.4	53.8	70.5	93.1
STATE	45,720	147	116	25.4	40.1	54.4	74.9	94.8

NOTE: This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.

TABLE CC-27
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
JUVENILE CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
FIRST CIRCUIT	906	920	834	847	978	695	1,184	1,097	1,043	1,008
Dorchester	199	194	174	186	163	142	263	240	175	165
Somerset	135	139	157	138	212	211	220	208	199	195
Wicomico	294	333	257	235	298	247	332	301	353	332
Worcester	278	254	246	288	305	295	369	348	316	316
SECOND CIRCUIT	1,295	1,260	1,306	1,251	1,263	1,334	1,463	1,347	1,462	1,461
Caroline	74	77	153	148	152	163	156	155	163	173
Cecil	685	664	646	604	591	654	678	620	724	711
Kent	66	61	46	38	54	56	92	75	87	80
Queen Anne's	236	235	243	253	232	229	227	220	324	298
Talbot	234	243	218	208	234	232	300	277	184	199
THIRD CIRCUIT	4,357	3,972	4,319	3,919	4,624	3,869	5,851	4,656	6,440	4,940
Baltimore	3,448	3,045	3,556	3,305	3,872	3,197	4,628	3,878	4,589	4,077
Harford	909	927	763	614	752	692	1,023	978	851	863
FOURTH CIRCUIT	1,134	1,149	1,069	1,034	1,135	1,066	1,163	1,102	1,240	1,160
Allegany	329	335	282	249	268	276	265	230	316	299
Garrett	115	117	157	156	155	141	140	135	133	143
Washington	690	697	630	629	712	671	778	737	791	708
FIFTH CIRCUIT	4,968	4,534	5,060	4,663	5,612	5,275	6,091	5,655	5,664	6,623
Anne Arundel	3,635	3,482	3,718	3,560	3,718	3,562	4,015	3,678	3,735	3,679
Carroll	619	480	548	481	910	830	789	810	664	599
Howard	714	572	814	842	984	883	1,287	1,167	1,285	1,245
SIXTH CIRCUIT	5,706	5,582	5,725	6,743	6,880	8,287	8,525	7,408	7,781	7,398
Frederick	694	676	641	599	684	622	911	865	866	872
Montgomery*	5,012	4,906	5,084	5,144	5,996	5,645	7,614	6,543	6,915	6,524
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	6,064	5,225	6,630	6,254	7,605	7,962	9,361	9,346	7,973	7,675
Calvert	459	495	495	478	528	531	592	580	752	780
Charles	545	580	634	545	634	630	816	799	816	796
Prince George's	4,620	3,836	5,100	4,885	6,266	6,479	7,478	7,514	5,880	5,648
St. Mary's	460	314	401	346	377	322	495	453	525	451
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	13,922	12,269	17,781	16,181	16,593	14,650	12,396	6,062	10,260	6,456
Baltimore City	13,922	12,289	17,781	16,181	16,593	14,650	12,398	8,062	10,260	5,456
STATE	38,372	34,951	42,744	40,112	44,690	41,360	45,888	38,873	40,903	34,609

*Includes juvenile cases processed at the District Court level.

TABLE CC-28
JUVENILE CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
FIRST CIRCUIT	276	1,043	1,008	311
Dorchester	86	175	165	96
Somerset	30	199	195	34
Wicomico	106	353	332	127
Worcester	54	316	316	54
SECOND CIRCUIT	319	1,482	1,461	340
Caroline	17	163	173	7
Cecil	212	724	711	225
Kent	28	87	80	35
Queen Anne's	19	324	298	45
Talbot	43	184	199	28
THIRD CIRCUIT	3,306	5,440	4,940	3,806
Baltimore	3,151	4,589	4,077	3,663
Harford	155	851	863	143
FOURTH CIRCUIT	224	1,240	1,150	314
Allegany	60	316	299	77
Garrett	26	133	143	16
Washington	138	791	708	221
FIFTH CIRCUIT	1,806	5,684	5,523	1,967
Anne Arundel	815	3,735	3,679	871
Carroll	502	664	599	567
Howard	489	1,285	1,245	529
SIXTH CIRCUIT	3,603	7,781	7,396	3,988
Frederick	184	866	872	178
Montgomery	3,419	6,915	6,524	3,810
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	2,226	7,973	7,875	2,524
Calvert	109	752	780	81
Charles	166	816	796	186
Prince George's	1,769	5,880	5,648	2,001
St. Mary's	182	525	451	256
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	21,248	10,280	5,456	28,052
Baltimore City	21,248	10,260	5,456	26,052
STATE	33,008	40,903	34,609	39,302

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

TABLE CC-29

**JUVENILE--AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES
AND CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS**

**JULY 1, 1995--JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996**

	Number of Cases*	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:					
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 271 Days	31 Days	61 Days	121 Days	181 Days	271 Days	361 Days
FIRST CIRCUIT									
Dorchester	100	47	47	28.0	72.0	99.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Somerset	96	16	16	78.1	97.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wicomico	228	70	40	48.7	77.2	89.5	91.7	94.3	95.2
Worcester	225	47	45	24.0	82.7	98.2	99.1	99.6	99.6
SECOND CIRCUIT									
Caroline	51	288	15	64.7	78.4	80.4	80.4	80.4	80.4
Cecil	359	107	74	16.2	41.8	81.6	88.6	93.9	95.8
Kent	45	56	56	22.2	55.6	97.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Queen Anne's	124	55	55	30.6	59.7	92.7	98.4	100.0	100.0
Talbot	80	130	74	18.8	45.0	76.3	78.8	90.0	90.0
THIRD CIRCUIT									
Baltimore	3,283	82	62	24.2	50.8	85.9	92.7	95.5	96.6
Harford	537	101	90	17.5	32.6	71.5	90.1	97.4	98.5
FOURTH CIRCUIT									
Allegany	266	72	66	18.4	52.6	86.8	94.7	98.1	99.2
Garrett	87	59	47	37.9	75.9	93.1	96.6	97.7	97.7
Washington	280	70	56	33.9	61.8	89.3	93.2	96.4	97.5
FIFTH CIRCUIT									
Anne Arundel	1,554	94	69	16.0	50.8	84.0	91.7	94.6	96.5
Carroll	359	90	78	18.1	57.9	79.7	83.6	96.1	97.8
Howard	836	105	74	11.8	33.5	82.8	91.3	95.1	96.3
SIXTH CIRCUIT									
Frederick	565	90	86	16.5	34.7	78.2	91.0	98.4	99.3
Montgomery	2,520	125	98	10.9	24.8	64.7	80.7	91.9	96.0
SEVENTH CIRCUIT									
Calvert	390	119	100	11.8	27.7	65.6	82.1	94.6	96.7
Charles	459	78	77	11.5	43.4	88.5	97.8	99.8	99.8
Prince George's	2,225	122	71	14.7	40.9	82.2	89.7	92.5	93.6
St. Mary's	250	204	78	14.0	34.8	70.8	78.4	84.0	90.8
EIGHTH CIRCUIT									
Baltimore City	4,365	25	11	86.4	92.1	94.5	95.4	96.9	97.8
STATE	19,284	84	59	33.7	54.4	83.4	90.8	95.1	96.6

*This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.

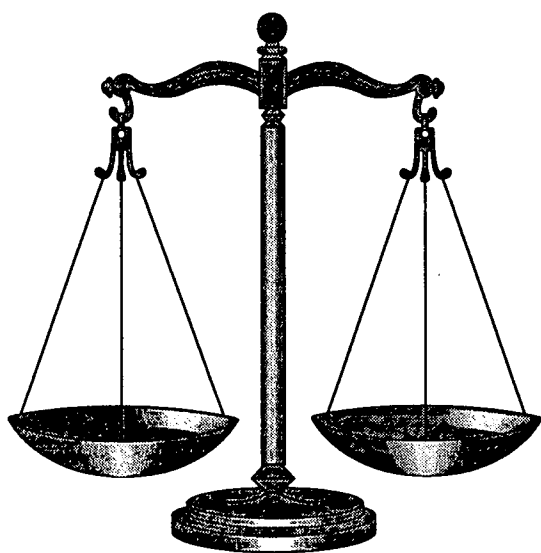
**There appears to be a reporting problem in Baltimore City that had not been confirmed as of this printing.

TABLE CC-30
DELINQUENCY TERMINATIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Jurisdiction Waived	Dismissed	Stet	Probation	Social Services	Juvenile Services	Hospital Facility	Institutional	Transferred In	Transferred Out	Continued	Other	TOTAL
FIRST CIRCUIT													
Dorchester	14	22	0	30	3	7	0	0	1	0	0	22	99
Somerset	12	8	0	18	3	35	0	0	0	2	19	30	127
Wicomico	31	17	13	84	1	35	0	1	3	5	0	55	245
Worcester	27	37	0	92	2	37	0	0	4	5	3	19	226
SECOND CIRCUIT													
Caroline	2	2	1	11	7	14	0	3	0	1	56	13	110
Cecil	8	89	8	108	3	55	1	4	1	2	0	15	294
Kent	2	21	0	22	1	6	0	0	2	3	0	4	61
Queen Anne's	4	19	0	47	0	45	0	0	4	4	0	147	270
Talbot	2	16	0	54	4	3	0	11	0	7	16	37	150
THIRD CIRCUIT													
Baltimore	149	408	950	1,023	50	354	2	0	87	15	27	307	3,372
Harford	20	54	0	210	60	20	0	61	14	35	1	126	601
FOURTH CIRCUIT													
Allegany	0	20	7	126	3	23	0	0	2	3	0	13	197
Garrett	0	10	2	26	8	8	0	5	0	4	0	14	77
Washington	22	39	2	111	13	127	0	0	8	4	0	31	357
FIFTH CIRCUIT													
Anne Arundel	25	402	148	1,098	12	252	1	111	40	81	204	629	3,003
Carroll	3	71	49	183	0	75	0	8	0	0	0	101	490
Howard	37	266	213	263	5	75	0	1	29	21	24	158	1,092
SIXTH CIRCUIT													
Frederick	6	199	11	242	13	80	4	4	12	11	9	102	693
Montgomery*	61	617	91	1,228	70	486	6	546	2	17	719	1,069	4,912
SEVENTH CIRCUIT													
Calvert	0	33	89	139	1	64	0	0	10	16	3	246	601
Charles	14	70	75	298	1	96	1	62	9	0	0	76	702
Prince George's	1	14	413	1,291	6	12	2	0	0	5	160	1,991	3,895
St. Mary's	0	56	1	98	8	30	0	0	11	3	1	118	326
EIGHTH CIRCUIT													
Baltimore City	52	2,359	0	47	2	1,303	0	0	41	1	0	515	4,320
STATE	492	4,849	2,073	6,849	276	3,242	17	817	280	245	1,242	5,838	26,220

*Juvenile cases for Montgomery County are handled by the District Court.

THE DISTRICT COURT



The District Court



Introduction

The District Court of Maryland was created as a result of the ratification in 1970 of a constitutional amendment proposed by the legislature in 1969. Operation of the District Court began on July 5, 1971, replacing a miscellaneous system of trial magistrates, people's and municipal courts with a fully State-funded court of record possessing statewide jurisdiction.

District Court judges are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. They are not required to stand for election. The first Chief Judge was designated by the Governor, but all subsequent chief judges are subject to appointment by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision.

There were 98 District Court judgeships, including the Chief Judge, as of July 1, 1995. The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court and appoints administrative judges for each of the twelve districts, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The Chief Judge of the District Court also appoints a chief clerk of the Court. Additionally, administrative clerks for each district, as well as commissioners who perform such duties as issuing arrest warrants and setting bail or collateral, are also appointed.

The District Court's jurisdiction includes criminal, including mo-

tor vehicle, and civil areas. It also has jurisdiction over juvenile causes only in Montgomery County. The exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court generally includes all landlord and tenant cases; replevin actions; motor vehicle violations; criminal cases if the penalty is less than three years imprisonment or does not exceed a fine of \$2,500, or both; and civil cases involving amounts not exceeding \$2,500. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in civil cases over \$2,500 to, but not exceeding, \$20,000; and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanors and certain enumerated felonies. Since there are no juries provided in the District Court, a person entitled to and electing a jury trial must proceed to the circuit court.

Motor Vehicle

There were 1,021,088 motor vehicle cases filed by the District Court of Maryland during Fiscal Year 1996, including 31,898 driving while intoxicated filings. Motor vehicle cases comprised more than 50 percent of the District Court's caseload during the year. The five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 619,257 filings, comprising nearly 61 percent of all motor vehicle cases reported. The greatest number of motor vehicle cases was filed by Prince George's County. There were 151,564 filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore County followed with 142,810 filings, while Montgomery County reported 131,223 motor vehicle filings. Bal-

timore City and Anne Arundel County reported 105,743 and 87,917 motor vehicle filings, respectively, during the fiscal year (Table DC-4).

During Fiscal Year 1996, the District Court processed 952,719 motor vehicle cases. Included in that figure are 290,625 cases that were tried, 558,451 cases for which tickets were paid, and 103,643 "other" dispositions (e.g., nolle prossed, stet, and jury trial prayers). Approximately 14 percent (i.e., 134,794) of the motor vehicle cases were processed by Baltimore County. Prince George's and Montgomery Counties processed 128,919 (i.e., 13.5 percent) and 120,021 (i.e., 12.6 percent) cases, respectively. There were 87,678 motor vehicle dispositions reported by Baltimore City for Fiscal Year 1996. Anne Arundel County reported 82,376 motor vehicle dispositions during the same time period (Table DC-4).

Criminal

There were 178,935 criminal cases filed by the District Court during Fiscal Year 1996. More than 35 percent of those cases were reported by Baltimore City. There were 62,814 criminal cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1996. The four remaining larger jurisdictions — Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties — reported a combined total of 70,607 cases, comprising approximately 39.5 percent of the criminal caseload. Prince George's County reported 23,271 criminal case fil-

ings during the year. Following was Baltimore County with 21,076 filings. There were 14,094 criminal cases reported by Montgomery County, while Anne Arundel County reported 12,166 filings.

The District Court processed more than 178,000 criminal cases during Fiscal Year 1996. The greatest number of cases, 64,221, were processed by Baltimore City. That figure represents approximately 36.1 percent of the criminal caseload. Prince George's County reported 24,999 criminal case dispositions during the fiscal year. There were 20,157 cases processed by Baltimore County, while Montgomery County processed 12,741 cases. Anne Arundel County reported 10,322 criminal case dispositions during Fiscal Year 1996 (Table DC-4).

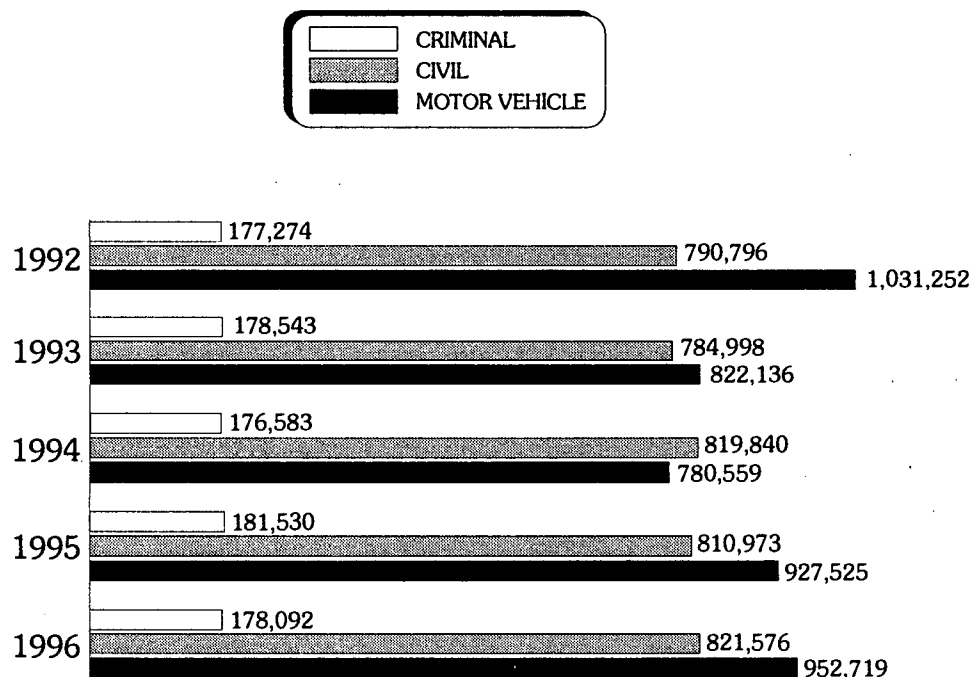
Civil

Civil case filings comprised nearly 41 percent of the District Court's Fiscal Year 1996 caseload. Filings reported by the five largest jurisdictions accounted for approximately 86 percent of the civil caseload for Fiscal Year 1996. There was a total of 705,894 civil cases filed by Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. Baltimore City reported 231,511 case filings, comprising more than 28 percent of the civil filings. Prince George's County reported 193,577 civil filings or 23.6 percent of the civil caseload. Baltimore County followed with 144,032 civil filings, while Montgomery and Anne Arundel

Counties reported 91,947 and 44,827 filings, respectively.

Nearly 72 percent of the Fiscal Year 1996 civil caseload was comprised of landlord and tenant cases. There were 588,046 landlord and tenant cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. The five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 530,023 cases, comprising approximately 90.1 percent of the landlord and tenant caseload. The greatest number of cases was reported by Baltimore City. There were 179,604 cases reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction. Prince George's County followed with 152,725 filings. There were 109,850 landlord and tenant cases filed by Baltimore County. Montgomery County reported 59,140 landlord and tenant case filings during Fiscal Year 1996, while

TABLE DC-1
DISTRICT COURT - CASELOAD BY FISCAL YEAR



Total caseload for Fiscal Year 1996 - 1,952,387

Anne Arundel County reported 28,704 filings.

Contract and tort filings totalled 203,034 during Fiscal Year 1996. Approximately 23 percent of the cases were reported by Baltimore City. Prince George's County followed with 36,381 filings or 17.9 percent of the contract and tort filings reported for the fiscal year. There were 29,036 filings reported by Baltimore County (i.e., 14.3 percent), while Montgomery County reported 28,358 filings (i.e., 14 percent). Anne Arundel County reported 13,577 contract and tort filings during Fiscal Year 1996. In addition to the landlord/tenant and contract/tort filings, there were 30,496 "other" civil complaints filed by the District Court which included attachments before judgments and replevin actions (Table DC-4).

During Fiscal Year 1996, the District Court filed 18,922 special proceedings. Included in that figure are 2,679 emergency hearings, 15,492 domestic violence cases, and 751 child abuse cases. The five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 11,691 domestic violence cases, comprising more than 75 percent of the cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore City reported the greatest number of cases with 3,648 domestic violence filings. Prince George's County followed with 3,228 case filings. There were 2,475 domestic violence cases filed by Baltimore County, while Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties filed 1,332 and 1,008 cases, respectively (Table DC-12).

Trends

The District Court of Maryland reported 2,021,599 total filings during Fiscal Year 1996. Over the past several years, a general increase in filings has been reported

by the Court. Since Fiscal Year 1993, total filings have increased more than 13.5 percent, from 1,781,416, to the current level of 2,021,599 filings.

Motor vehicle filings have increased approximately 23 percent since Fiscal Year 1993. There were 830,400 motor vehicle cases filed during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 1,021,088 case filings. Each of the five largest jurisdictions reported an increased caseload during that time period, contributing to the overall increase. The most significant increase was noted by Montgomery County. There were 79,747 motor vehicle cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the current level of 131,223 filings, an increase of 64.5 percent. Likewise, Baltimore City reported a 39.5 percent increase, from 75,786 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 105,743 motor vehicle filings. There was a 23.9 percent rise in filings reported by Prince George's County, from 122,350 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 151,564 filings. Since Fiscal Year 1993, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties' motor vehicle caseloads have risen by 8.8 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively. Baltimore County reported 142,810 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to 131,317 filings during Fiscal Year 1993. There were 87,917 motor vehicle cases filed by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares to the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 83,553 filings. Over the last three years, DWI case filings have risen approximately 7 percent.

The District Court's criminal caseload has increased nearly 8 percent since Fiscal Year 1993. There were 166,018 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the current level of

178,935 filings. Throughout that time period, the five largest jurisdictions consistently comprised a significant percentage of the caseload. During Fiscal Year 1993, the five largest jurisdictions reported a combined total of 123,537 criminal filings, accounting for 74.4 percent of the criminal cases filed. Likewise, 133,421 total cases were reported by those jurisdictions during Fiscal Year 1996, comprising approximately 74.6 percent of the caseload. Among the five largest jurisdictions, Montgomery County reported the greatest rise in criminal filings since Fiscal Year 1993. There were 11,855 criminal cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 14,094 filings, an increase of 18.9 percent. Baltimore County followed with a 13.7 percent increase, from 18,534 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 21,076 filings. There was a 9.2 percent increase noted by Prince George's County (i.e., from 21,308 in Fiscal Year 1993, to 23,271 in Fiscal Year 1996), while Baltimore City reported an increase of 6.7 percent (i.e., from 58,892 in Fiscal Year 1993, to 62,814 in Fiscal Year 1996). Anne Arundel County reported the only decrease, 6 percent, from 12,948 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 12,166 filings.

While attempting to maintain its increasing caseload, the District Court has processed a consistent number of criminal cases since Fiscal Year 1993. There were 178,543 criminal case dispositions reported for Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the current level of 178,092 dispositions.

Since Fiscal Year 1993, the civil caseload in the District Court has increased by 4.7 percent, from 784,998 in Fiscal Year 1993, to 821,576 filings in Fiscal Year

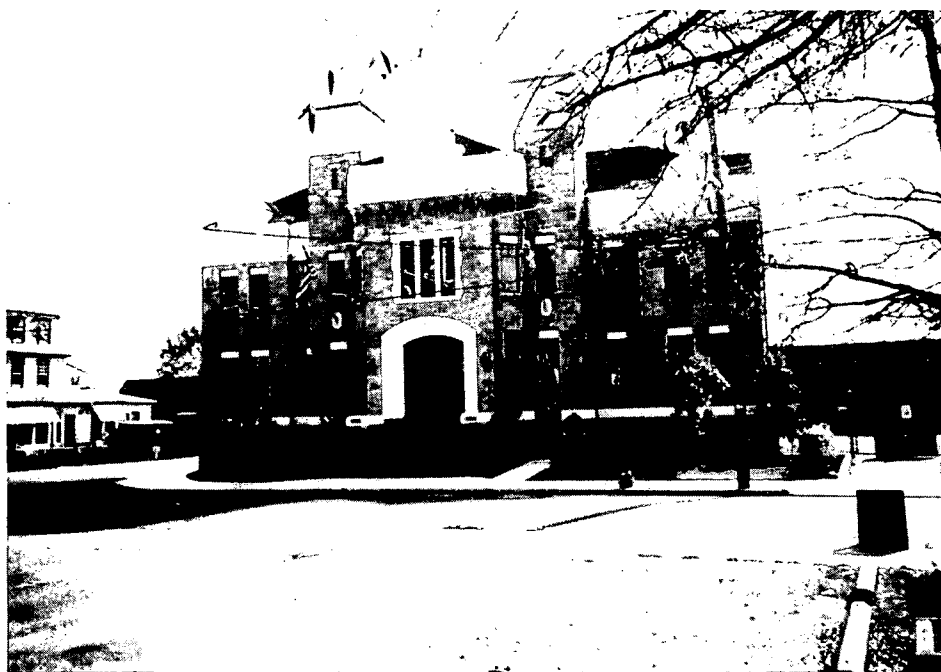
1996. During that time period, increases were reported by four of the five largest jurisdictions. The greatest statistical increase was reported by Prince George's County. There were 179,038 civil cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the current level of 193,577 filings, an increase of 14,539 cases or 8.1 percent. Montgomery County followed with a Fiscal Year 1996 civil caseload of 91,947 filings. That figure represents an increase of 9,645 filings or 11.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 82,302 cases. There was a 5.5 percent increase reported by Baltimore County, from 136,492 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 144,032 filings. Anne Arundel County's civil caseload rose by approximately 0.2 percent. There were 43,927 civil cases filed by the aforementioned jurisdiction in Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 44,827 filings in Fiscal Year 1996. The only decrease reported among the five largest ju-

risdictions occurred in Baltimore City. There were 231,511 civil filings reported by that jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1996, representing a decrease of 3.1 percent from the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 238,795 filings.

Categorically, landlord and tenant filings increased 5.5 percent since Fiscal Year 1993, while contract and tort filings increased 3.7 percent during the same time period. There were 588,046 landlord and tenant filings reported for Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares to the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 557,206 filings. Contract and tort filings rose from 195,848 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 203,034 filings. Domestic violence filings increased approximately 70 percent since Fiscal Year 1993, from 9,114, to the current level of 15,492 filings. During that time period, significant increases occurred in the number of domestic violence cases filed by the five largest jurisdictions. Anne Arundel County reported a 104.3 rise in filings, from

652 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 1,332 filings. Likewise, a 90.1 percent increase was noted in Baltimore County, from 1,302 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 2,475 filings. Prince George's County reported 3,228 domestic violence case filings during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 61.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 1,995 filings. Montgomery County reported a 59.5 percent rise in filings (i.e., from 632 in Fiscal Year 1993, to 1,008 in Fiscal Year 1996), while Baltimore City's domestic violence caseload increased approximately 46 percent, from 2,498 in Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 3,648 filings.

With the recent attention given to the issue of domestic violence, as well as a general rise in criminal activity, the District Court can expect to be faced with an ever-increasing caseload which will undoubtedly place a strain on its judicial resources.



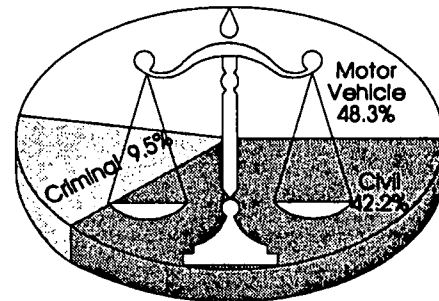
*District Court Building
District 2
Dorchester County
Cambridge, Maryland*

DISTRICT COURT FISCAL YEAR 1995
CASELOAD BREAKDOWN

TABLE DC-2

**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
MOTOR VEHICLE AND CRIMINAL CASES PROCESSED
AND CIVIL CASES FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF MARYLAND**

FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996



	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DISTRICT 1					
Baltimore City	402,025	374,971	389,512	402,059	383,410
DISTRICT 2					
Dorchester	17,325	16,037	15,488	15,913	13,885
Somerset	12,261	10,225	10,896	12,223	10,743
Wicomico	37,653	31,409	33,514	40,083	44,378
Worcester	24,889	25,151	24,214	30,176	29,434
DISTRICT 3					
Caroline	8,928	8,363	7,355	9,522	9,478
Cecil	41,829	35,018	32,455	37,244	38,533
Kent	6,624	6,415	8,868	8,641	7,670
Queen Anne's	13,408	12,598	13,611	17,765	18,290
Talbot	14,644	16,409	13,205	16,935	18,982
DISTRICT 4					
Calvert	17,118	17,251	16,741	18,992	21,696
Charles	28,909	28,515	26,781	33,355	35,059
St. Mary's	18,819	20,228	17,294	21,499	27,597
DISTRICT 5					
Prince George's	361,171	312,639	317,687	336,404	347,495
DISTRICT 8					
Montgomery	235,624	178,883	171,275	197,416	224,709
DISTRICT 7					
Anne Arundel	152,101	140,389	136,407	145,792	137,525
DISTRICT 8					
Baltimore	319,881	289,411	286,541	286,708	298,983
DISTRICT 9					
Harford	56,798	53,948	53,748	54,639	51,656
DISTRICT 10					
Carroll	30,070	28,579	26,375	31,666	33,295
Howard	71,922	68,790	67,233	78,801	83,821
DISTRICT 11					
Frederick	62,222	50,906	45,977	50,734	49,627
Washington	32,672	31,901	34,142	37,428	37,073
DISTRICT 12					
Allegany	19,963	19,623	19,192	20,814	18,341
Garrett	12,468	10,018	10,471	15,239	12,709
STATE	1,999,322	1,785,877	1,778,982	1,920,028	1,952,387

TABLE DC-3
COMPARATIVE TABLE ON CASES FILED OR PROCESSED
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

FISCAL 1995-FISCAL 1996

	MOTOR VEHICLE CASES PROCESSED			CRIMINAL CASES PROCESSED			CIVIL CASES FILED		
	1994-95	1995-96	% Change	1994-95	1995-96	% Change	1994-95	1995-96	% Change
DISTRICT 1									
Baltimore City	85,100	87,678	3.0	64,537	64,221	-0.5	252,422	231,511	-8.3
DISTRICT 2									
Dorchester	10,578	8,221	-22.3	1,673	1,608	-3.9	3,662	4,056	10.8
Somerset	9,750	8,312	-14.7	887	791	-10.8	1,586	1,640	3.4
Wicomico	25,440	29,237	14.9	4,252	3,568	-16.1	10,371	11,571	11.6
Worcester	22,554	22,103	-2.0	3,515	3,042	-13.5	4,107	4,289	4.4
DISTRICT 3									
Caroline	6,088	5,998	-1.5	1,191	1,172	-1.6	2,243	2,308	2.9
Cecil	29,940	31,072	3.8	2,576	2,633	2.2	4,728	4,828	2.1
Kent	6,758	5,585	-17.4	545	588	7.9	1,338	1,497	11.9
Queen Anne's	14,849	15,671	5.5	1,034	929	-10.2	1,882	1,690	-10.2
Talbot	12,756	12,931	1.4	1,555	1,411	-9.3	2,624	2,640	0.6
DISTRICT 4									
Calvert	14,107	16,629	17.9	2,144	2,021	-5.7	2,741	3,046	11.1
Charles	21,970	24,388	11.0	3,765	3,280	-12.9	7,620	7,391	-3.0
St. Mary's	13,879	19,988	44.0	2,334	2,491	6.7	5,286	5,118	-3.2
DISTRICT 5									
Prince George's	125,999	128,919	2.3	25,351	24,999	-1.4	185,054	193,577	4.6
DISTRICT 6									
Montgomery	106,394	120,021	12.8	13,030	12,741	-2.2	77,992	91,947	17.9
DISTRICT 7									
Anne Arundel	88,415	82,376	-6.8	11,340	10,322	-9.0	46,037	44,827	-2.6
DISTRICT 8									
Baltimore	129,865	134,794	3.8	19,348	20,157	4.2	137,495	144,032	4.8
DISTRICT 9									
Harford	36,003	31,916	-11.4	3,870	3,827	-1.1	14,766	15,913	7.8
DISTRICT 10									
Carroll	23,585	24,722	4.8	2,356	2,567	9.0	5,725	6,006	4.9
Howard	55,887	61,978	10.9	4,820	4,914	2.0	18,094	16,929	-6.4
DISTRICT 11									
Frederick	36,210	34,867	-3.7	3,610	3,570	-1.1	10,914	11,190	2.5
Washington	23,845	22,721	-4.7	3,459	3,236	-6.4	10,124	11,116	9.8
DISTRICT 12									
Allegany	14,290	11,795	-17.5	3,310	2,954	-10.8	3,214	3,592	11.8
Garrett	13,263	10,797	-18.6	1,028	1,050	2.1	948	862	-9.1
STATE	927,525	952,719	2.7	181,530	178,092	-1.9	810,973	821,576	1.3

TABLE DC-5
POPULATION AND CASELOAD PER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE*
AS OF JUNE 30, 1996

JULY 1, 1995—JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Number of Judges	Population Per Judge**	CASES FILED OR PROCESSED PER JUDGE			
			Civil	Motor Vehicle	Criminal	Total
DISTRICT 1						
Baltimore City	23	29,961	10,066	3,812	2,792	16,670
DISTRICT 2						
Dorchester	1	30,400	4,056	8,221	1,608	13,885
Somerset	1	23,900	1,640	8,312	791	10,743
Wicomico	2	40,250	5,786	14,619	1,784	22,189
Worcester	1	40,700	4,289	22,103	3,042	29,434
DISTRICT 3						
Caroline	1	29,500	2,308	5,998	1,172	9,478
Cecil	2	39,800	2,414	15,536	1,317	19,267
Kent	1	19,000	1,497	5,585	588	7,670
Queen Anne's	1	37,000	1,690	15,671	929	18,290
Talbot	1	32,600	2,640	12,931	1,411	16,982
DISTRICT 4						
Calvert	1	67,200	3,046	16,629	2,021	21,696
Charles	2	56,600	3,696	12,194	1,640	17,530
St. Mary's	1	82,500	5,118	19,988	2,491	27,597
DISTRICT 5						
Prince George's	11	70,909	17,598	11,720	2,273	31,591
DISTRICT 6						
Montgomery	9***	91,000	10,216	13,336	1,416	24,968
DISTRICT 7						
Anne Arundel	7	66,771	6,404	11,768	1,475	19,647
DISTRICT 8						
Baltimore	12	59,833	12,003	11,233	1,680	24,916
DISTRICT 9						
Harford	4	52,925	3,978	7,979	957	12,914
DISTRICT 10						
Carroll	2	71,150	3,003	12,361	1,284	16,648
Howard	4	56,450	4,232	15,495	1,229	20,956
DISTRICT 11						
Frederick	2	90,500	5,595	17,434	1,785	24,814
Washington	2	64,400	5,558	11,361	1,618	18,537
DISTRICT 12						
Allegany	2	36,600	1,796	5,898	1,477	9,171
Garrett	1	29,800	862	10,797	1,050	12,709
STATE	94	54,279	8,740	10,135	1,895	20,770

* Chief Judge of District Court not included in statistics. Number of judges as of June 30, 1996.

** Population estimates for July 1, 1996, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

***Three Juvenile Court judges and juvenile causes omitted as included in juvenile statistics.

TABLE DC-6
CASES FILED OR PROCESSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
PER THOUSAND POPULATION

JULY 1, 1995-JUNE 30, 1996
FISCAL 1996

	Population*	Civil Filed	Motor Vehicle Processed	Criminal Processed	Total
DISTRICT 1					
Baltimore City	689,100	336	127	93	556
DISTRICT 2					
Dorchester	30,400	133	270	53	456
Somerset	23,900	69	348	33	450
Wicomico	80,500	144	363	44	551
Worcester	40,700	105	543	75	723
DISTRICT 3					
Caroline	29,500	78	203	40	321
Cecil	79,600	61	390	33	484
Kent	19,000	79	294	31	404
Queen Anne's	37,000	46	424	25	495
Talbot	32,600	81	397	43	521
DISTRICT 4					
Calvert	67,200	45	247	30	322
Charles	113,200	65	215	29	309
St. Mary's	82,500	62	242	30	334
DISTRICT 5					
Prince George's	780,000	248	165	32	445
DISTRICT 6					
Montgomery	819,000	112	147	16	275
DISTRICT 7					
Anne Arundel	467,400	96	176	22	294
DISTRICT 8					
Baltimore	718,000	201	188	28	417
DISTRICT 9					
Harford	211,700	75	151	18	244
DISTRICT 10					
Carroll	142,300	42	174	18	234
Howard	225,800	75	274	22	371
DISTRICT 11					
Frederick	181,000	62	193	20	275
Washington	128,800	86	176	25	287
DISTRICT 12					
Allegany	73,200	49	161	40	250
Garrett	29,800	29	362	35	426
STATE	5,102,200	161	187	35	383

* Population estimate for July 1, 1996, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

TABLE DC-7
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
MOTOR VEHICLE CASES PROCESSED
BY THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DISTRICT 1					
Baltimore City	96,262	76,350	73,042	85,100	87,678
DISTRICT 2					
Dorchester	11,685	11,365	10,244	10,578	8,221
Somerset	9,512	7,685	8,130	9,750	8,312
Wicomico	24,213	18,994	19,769	25,440	29,237
Worcester	17,024	17,873	17,142	22,554	22,103
DISTRICT 3					
Caroline	6,120	5,595	4,583	6,088	5,998
Cecil	34,563	28,023	25,644	29,940	31,072
Kent	4,326	4,356	4,956	6,758	5,585
Queen Anne's	10,512	9,716	11,086	14,849	15,671
Talbot	10,790	12,568	9,722	12,756	12,931
DISTRICT 4					
Calvert	13,221	12,978	12,116	14,107	16,629
Charles	17,401	17,171	15,911	21,970	24,388
St. Mary's	11,283	12,947	9,879	13,879	19,988
DISTRICT 5					
Prince George's	160,789	107,441	107,631	125,999	128,919
DISTRICT 6					
Montgomery	139,336	83,465	80,818	106,394	120,021
DISTRICT 7					
Anne Arundel	94,958	82,328	79,381	88,415	82,376
DISTRICT 8					
Baltimore	164,393	134,054	118,461	129,865	134,794
DISTRICT 9					
Harford	38,461	36,006	34,958	36,003	31,916
DISTRICT 10					
Carroll	22,331	20,753	18,127	23,585	24,722
Howard	52,533	45,201	44,799	55,887	61,978
DISTRICT 11					
Frederick	46,722	35,613	31,089	36,210	34,867
Washington	20,198	19,052	21,148	23,845	22,721
DISTRICT 12					
Allegany	14,208	14,449	13,235	14,290	11,795
Garrett	10,411	8,153	8,688	13,263	10,797
STATE	1,031,252	822,136	780,559	927,525	952,719

TABLE DC-8
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CRIMINAL CASES BY THE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS CHARGED
PROCESSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DISTRICT 1					
Baltimore City	58,520	59,826	62,419	64,537	64,221
DISTRICT 2					
Dorchester	1,858	1,655	1,868	1,673	1,608
Somerset	1,061	1,027	1,003	887	791
Wicomico	3,653	3,346	3,451	4,252	3,568
Worcester	3,681	3,815	3,286	3,515	3,042
DISTRICT 3					
Caroline	924	975	946	1,191	1,172
Cecil	2,871	2,836	2,484	2,576	2,633
Kent	529	514	495	545	588
Queen Anne's	933	934	854	1,034	929
Talbot	1,240	1,369	1,276	1,555	1,411
DISTRICT 4					
Calvert	1,816	2,146	2,239	2,144	2,021
Charles	4,043	3,884	3,600	3,765	3,280
St. Mary's	2,603	2,364	2,673	2,334	2,491
DISTRICT 5					
Prince George's	22,524	26,160	22,543	25,351	24,999
DISTRICT 6					
Montgomery	15,410	13,116	13,305	13,030	12,741
DISTRICT 7					
Anne Arundel	13,689	14,134	12,277	11,340	10,322
DISTRICT 8					
Baltimore	19,463	18,865	21,185	19,348	20,157
DISTRICT 9					
Harford	4,531	4,070	3,949	3,870	3,827
DISTRICT 10					
Carroll	2,260	2,429	2,313	2,356	2,567
Howard	4,213	4,227	4,055	4,820	4,914
DISTRICT 11					
Frederick	3,694	3,813	3,565	3,610	3,570
Washington	3,583	3,354	3,067	3,459	3,236
DISTRICT 12					
Allegany	3,102	2,782	2,740	3,310	2,954
Garrett	1,073	902	990	1,028	1,050
STATE	177,274	178,543	176,583	181,530	178,092

TABLE DC-9
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL CASES FILED
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DISTRICT 1					
Baltimore City	247,243	238,795	254,051	252,422	231,511
DISTRICT 2					
Dorchester	3,782	3,017	3,376	3,662	4,056
Somerset	1,688	1,513	1,763	1,586	1,640
Wicomico	9,787	9,069	10,294	10,371	11,571
Worcester	4,184	3,463	3,786	4,107	4,289
DISTRICT 3					
Caroline	1,882	1,793	1,826	2,243	2,308
Cecil	4,395	4,159	4,327	4,728	4,828
Kent	1,769	1,545	1,417	1,338	1,497
Queen Anne's	1,963	1,948	1,671	1,882	1,690
Talbot	2,614	2,472	2,207	2,624	2,640
DISTRICT 4					
Calvert	2,081	2,127	2,386	2,741	3,046
Charles	7,465	7,460	7,270	7,620	7,391
St. Mary's	4,933	4,917	4,742	5,286	5,118
DISTRICT 5					
Prince George's	177,858	179,038	187,513	185,054	193,577
DISTRICT 6					
Montgomery	80,878	82,302	77,152	77,992	91,947
DISTRICT 7					
Anne Arundel	43,454	43,927	44,749	46,037	44,827
DISTRICT 8					
Baltimore	136,025	136,492	146,895	137,495	144,032
DISTRICT 9					
Harford	13,806	13,872	14,841	14,766	15,913
DISTRICT 10					
Carroll	5,479	5,397	5,935	5,725	6,006
Howard	15,176	17,362	18,379	18,094	16,929
DISTRICT 11					
Frederick	11,806	11,480	11,323	10,914	11,190
Washington	8,891	9,495	9,927	10,124	11,116
DISTRICT 12					
Allegany	2,653	2,392	3,217	3,214	3,592
Garrett	984	963	793	948	862
STATE	790,796	784,998	819,840	810,973	821,576

TABLE DC-10
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED CASES RECEIVED BY
THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	% Change
DISTRICT 1						
Baltimore City	1,893	1,708	1,666	1,819	1,697	-8.7
DISTRICT 2						
Dorchester	324	265	239	220	213	-3.2
Somerset	237	197	192	161	152	-5.8
Wicomico	595	504	515	483	559	15.7
Worcester	913	815	884	832	891	7.1
DISTRICT 3						
Caroline	194	231	222	254	191	-24.8
Cecil	910	746	726	849	969	14.1
Kent	183	283	224	154	173	12.3
Queen Anne's	316	310	255	333	333	0.0
Talbot	413	310	298	389	320	-17.7
DISTRICT 4						
Calvert	807	731	729	749	656	-12.4
Charles	870	774	676	724	802	10.8
St. Mary's	1,103	1,127	608	741	1,223	65.0
DISTRICT 5						
Prince George's	4,004	3,888	3,630	4,267	4,325	1.4
DISTRICT 6						
Montgomery	4,968	3,006	2,934	3,348	4,042	20.7
DISTRICT 7						
Anne Arundel	7,610	7,055	6,967	6,501	6,164	-5.2
DISTRICT 8						
Baltimore	3,560	3,127	2,521	2,498	2,734	9.4
DISTRICT 9						
Harford	1,509	1,406	1,235	1,191	1,152	-3.3
DISTRICT 10						
Carroll	872	1,102	792	577	631	9.4
Howard	2,109	1,690	1,698	1,621	1,539	-5.1
DISTRICT 11						
Frederick	1,602	1,318	1,274	1,340	1,529	14.1
Washington	912	821	781	865	907	4.9
DISTRICT 12						
Allegany	636	578	552	468	492	5.1
Garrett	283	217	208	264	204	-22.7
STATE	36,823	32,209	29,826	30,648	31,898	4.1

TABLE DC-11
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED DISPOSITIONS
FISCAL 1996

	Guilt	Not Guilty	Probation Before Judgment	Nolle Prossed	Stat	Merged	Jury Trial Prayers	Dis- missed	Miscel- laneous	Total Dispositions
DISTRICT 1										
Baltimore City	532	47	583	163	179	7	65	25	5	1,606
DISTRICT 2										
Dorchester	178	14	20	26	0	2	18	0	1	259
Somerset	78	3	2	31	2	0	60	1	0	177
Wlcomlco	269	22	137	54	12	1	104	6	0	605
Worcester	320	11	159	218	1	3	223	1	0	936
DISTRICT 3										
Caroline	175	7	30	26	4	0	19	2	1	264
Cecil	264	9	181	112	12	0	368	0	4	950
Kent	132	3	50	19	0	1	8	0	0	213
Queen Anne's	297	11	69	79	0	1	10	2	0	469
Talbot	233	13	119	39	8	0	34	1	2	449
DISTRICT 4										
Calvert	372	7	235	84	21	0	35	0	8	762
Charles	335	4	162	77	7	0	164	0	4	753
St. Mary's	361	14	75	418	26	2	143	79	4	1,122
DISTRICT 5										
Prince George's	283	68	626	1,395	145	10	1,181	35	8	3,751
DISTRICT 6										
Montgomery	1,081	44	772	465	1,028	1	265	7	19	3,682
DISTRICT 7										
Anne Arundel	977	351	1,227	1,394	942	555	120	35	36	5,637
DISTRICT 8										
Baltimore	929	61	1,164	270	24	2	134	1	24	2,609
DISTRICT 9										
Harford	616	12	525	59	2	10	202	7	5	1,438
DISTRICT 10										
Carroll	177	17	239	68	1	7	150	0	4	663
Howard	451	32	615	167	77	0	228	4	4	1,578
DISTRICT 11										
Frederick	467	12	556	124	31	0	293	0	2	1,485
Washington	293	6	346	117	20	0	271	0	1	1,054
DISTRICT 12										
Allegany	232	5	182	80	13	0	49	0	4	565
Garrett	128	5	103	25	7	0	19	0	6	293
STATE	9,180	778	8,177	5,510	2,562	602	4,163	206	142	31,320

TABLE DC-12
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
EMERGENCY EVALUATION AND DOMESTIC ABUSE HEARINGS
HELD IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FISCAL 1992-FISCAL 1996

	Emergency Hearings					Domestic Violence				
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
DISTRICT 1										
Baltimore City	940	676	782	610	465	2,218	2,498	3,190	3,393	3,648
DISTRICT 2										
Dorchester	8	16	22	22	25	40	64	102	106	114
Somerset	4	7	4	6	1	14	18	25	33	40
Wicomico	52	68	64	40	55	125	185	371	476	536
Worcester	23	21	25	21	7	61	42	87	112	123
DISTRICT 3										
Caroline	2	1	4	4	4	18	25	58	81	88
Cecil	51	39	52	32	50	88	165	233	294	312
Kent	16	18	30	12	5	12	17	29	23	23
Queen Anne's	8	10	10	9	6	42	46	59	64	69
Talbot	2	1	5	3	2	12	44	40	41	33
DISTRICT 4										
Calvert	8	18	22	22	24	46	92	111	116	133
Charles	51	53	66	64	47	84	134	207	194	204
St. Mary's	20	33	26	18	34	54	135	128	183	190
DISTRICT 5										
Prince George's	434	443	482	447	457	836	1,995	2,636	2,882	3,228
DISTRICT 6										
Montgomery	432	464	534	497	453	548	632	889	897	1,008
DISTRICT 7										
Anne Arundel	215	211	263	296	230	297	652	1,090	1,159	1,332
DISTRICT 8										
Baltimore	445	405	493	577	517	856	1,302	1,800	2,170	2,475
DISTRICT 9										
Harford	37	36	29	37	56	70	145	226	261	373
DISTRICT 10										
Carroll	31	16	25	24	25	75	79	133	92	152
Howard	67	69	62	51	64	103	134	214	277	278
DISTRICT 11										
Frederick	50	46	58	52	50	193	219	311	364	387
Washington	35	51	42	48	47	178	256	304	362	403
DISTRICT 12										
Allegany	39	55	39	37	49	100	162	199	240	245
Garrett	13	17	7	17	6	94	73	80	105	98
STATE	2,983	2,774	3,146	2,946	2,679	6,164	9,114	12,522	13,925	15,492

THE ORPHANS' COURT



The Orphans' Court



In almost every county and in Baltimore City, the Orphans' Court is the court of probate. When Maryland was a British colony, testamentary functions were the responsibility of the Commissary General of the Prerogative Court and a deputy commissary in each county tended to these matters. This centralized administration of probate was abolished during the Revolutionary War.

Maryland's first constitution, adopted in November of 1776, authorized a Register of Wills to oversee probate in each county. The following spring, the General Assembly formally established the Orphans' Court as the mechanism for probate administration, with the Register of Wills as the Court's Chief Clerk. The name, as well as the idea, was taken from the Court of Orphans of the City of London. That Court had the care and guardianship of orphaned children of London citizens and could compel executors and guardians to file

inventories and accounts and give securities for their estates.

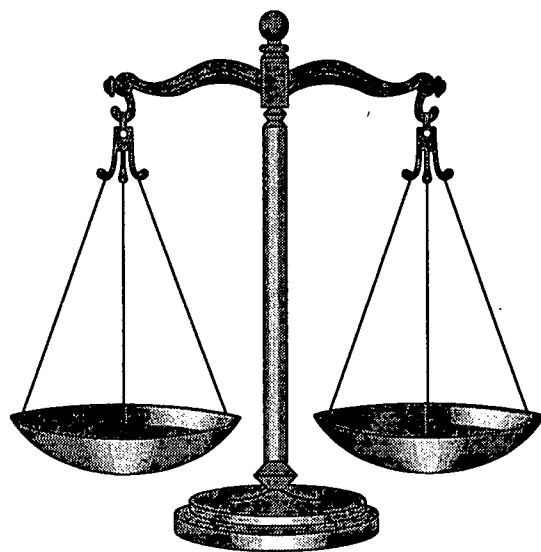
Today, the Orphans' Court hears all matters involving decedents' estates which are contested and supervises all of those estates which are probated judicially. It approves accounts, awards of personal representative's commissions, and attorney's fees in all estates. The Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in the guardianships of minors and their property. All matters involving the validity of wills and the transfer of property in which legal questions and disputes occur are resolved by the Orphans' Court.

There are three judges who sit on the Orphans' Court in Baltimore City and in each of the counties, except Montgomery County and Harford County. The judges are elected every four years and, in the case of a vacancy, the Governor is authorized to appoint a suitable person, subject to Senate confirma-

tion, to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term. Of the three persons elected in Baltimore City and in each of the counties, the Governor designates one as the Chief Judge of the Court. In Montgomery County and Harford County, circuit court judges sit as Orphans' Court judges.

In contrast to the State's trial and appellate court judges, individuals elected to serve as judges of the Orphans' Court are not required to be attorneys. The General Assembly prescribes the powers and jurisdiction of the Court and fixes the compensation of each of the three elected judges, who are paid by the city or county government. An appeal from a decision by the Orphans' Court may be to a circuit court, where the matter is tried de novo before a judge or jury, or to the Court of Special Appeals, where the matter is heard on the record.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION



Judicial Administration



Administrative Office of the Courts

Under Article IV, §18(b) of the Maryland Constitution, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is the "administrative head of the judicial system of the State."

Forty years ago, the Maryland Legislature took an additional step to provide the administrative and professional staff necessary to assist the Chief Judge to carry out the administrative responsibilities under the Constitution by enacting §13-101 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. This statute established the Administrative Office of the Courts under the direction of the State Court Administrator, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Judge. The State Court Administrator and the Administrative Office of the Courts provide the Chief Judge with advice, information, facilities, and staff to assist in the performance of the Chief Judge's administrative responsibilities. The administrative responsibilities include personnel administration, preparation and administration of the Judiciary Budget, liaison with legislative and executive branches, planning and research, education of judges and court support personnel. Staff support is provided to the Maryland Judicial Conference, the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Judicial Institute of Maryland, and the Select Committee on Gender Equality. In addition, the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as secretariat to the Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commissions.

Personnel also are responsible for the complex operation of data processing systems, collection and analysis of statistics and other management information. The office also assists the Chief Judge in the assignment of active and former judges to cope with case backloads or address shortages of judicial personnel in critical locations.

What follows are some of the details pertaining to certain important activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts during the last twelve months.

Judicial Personnel Services

Judicial Personnel Services provides personnel-related support services to the 24 circuit court clerks' offices, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and court-related agencies. These services include recruitment and selection assistance, compensation and benefits administration, payroll processing, leave accounting, legally-mandated record keeping, employee relations management, and training.

Realizing the impact that today's changing demographics have on the work place, a Cultural Diversity Training Program was presented. The program's focus was assisting the employees in exploring their personal attitudes towards differences and developing an understanding of how these attitudes affect their interactions with others. The employee's role in the formulation of a work place where people of all backgrounds and cultures

have a chance to contribute was stressed. Emphasis was also placed on the significant role an employee has in their organization's success.

To aid in the effort to effectively assess and identify qualified job applicants, the Personnel Department evaluated several computer-based testing systems to be used at regional sites. The program that was eventually purchased provides validated tests for both secretarial and clerical applicants. Skills that can be tested include: speed typing, data entry, shorthand, letter form, statistical typing, and ten key. In addition, applicants' knowledge of WordPerfect and Microsoft Word can also be tested. This testing has provided a concrete tool that is used to rank candidates based on skill, and has dramatically increased the confidence hiring managers place in their new hires.

Once the software package was purchased, staff members of the Personnel Unit made presentations to the clerks of court regarding the capabilities and advantages of using this system. In addition, as part of the installation of this software package, Personnel staff went to each of the eight regional sites and trained on-site personnel on the use and applications of the program. The Personnel Unit also serves as troubleshooters in the day-to-day use of this product.

In response to many requests, the Personnel Department has gone to several jurisdictions and provided I.D.'s for the employees of the clerks' offices. This project will continue into the next fiscal year.

Employees of the Judiciary were presented service award pins for length of service ranging from five to forty years. The lapel pin provides a daily reinforcement of the Judiciary's appreciation of its employees. The service awards program recognizes the employees of the Judiciary as they continue in their mission to improve the operations of the courts.

Abra for Windows was installed to upgrade the Human Resource Information System. This upgrade is more user friendly, allows for faster data entry and greater flexibility in the area of customized report generation. Personnel employees received training on the use of the new Abra software.

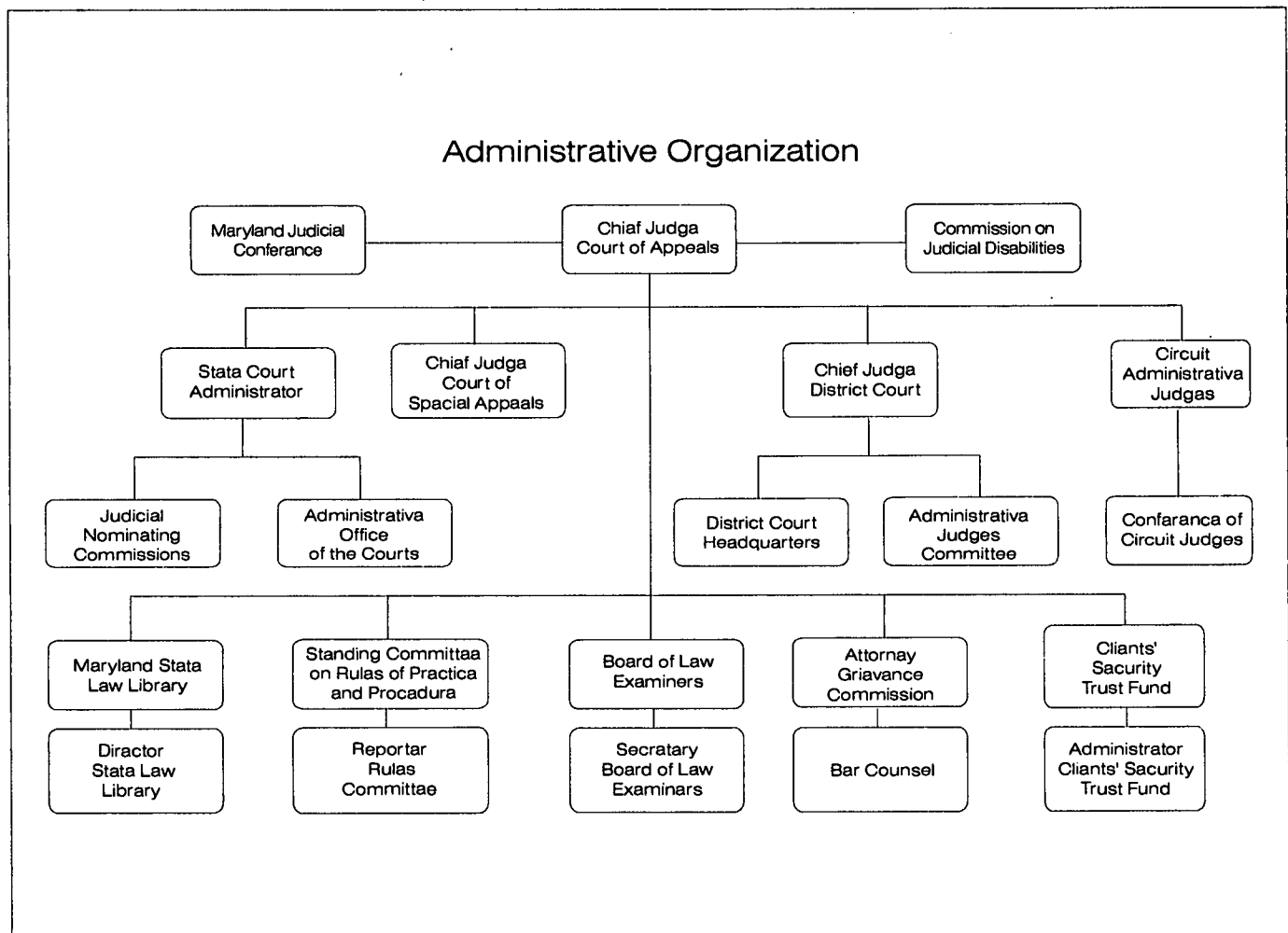
Payroll and personnel data maintained by the Central Payroll Bureau and the Office of Human Resources can now be accessed via CICS inquiry screens. Prior to this on-line service, Personnel staff had to wait for response to telephone inquiries or formally request the generation of ad hoc reports.

The implementation of the job classification study for the Administrative Office of the Courts was completed. Employee committees, representing the various job functions, assisted in the job evaluations. The evaluation results were integrated with competitive pay data, utilizing benchmark jobs within other state agencies, to ensure parity.

The Job Evaluation and Proficiencies Clerk Committee will continue to review the current job standards and responsibilities of the clerks. Based on the work that has been completed by the end of the fiscal year, there may be a need for some grade leveling changes for various key benchmark jobs in the future.

In the Risk Management area, a notice to employees concerning on-the-job injuries was revised and distributed in October 1995. This notice contained detailed reporting procedures; instructions for obtaining medical treatment and prescriptions; and an explanation of employees' rights and benefits for compensable injuries. The notice to supervisors and managers outlined

Administrative Organization



their responsibility to coordinate the reporting and investigation of on-the-job injuries. In addition, Preferred Provider directories were distributed.

A microfilm and microfiche reader/printer was procured in order to efficiently address space constraints for storing personnel data. Initially, pay history cards for employees of the clerks' offices were transferred to this medium. Subsequently, personnel records for some former employees were filmed. Filming of records will occur on an annual basis for individuals who left employment at least three years ago.

In addition, personnel staff participated in the following ventures:

Assisted with planning and coordinating the 1996 Maryland Judicial Conference on Addictions.

Attended various conferences, seminars and workshops in order to keep abreast of human resource developments and to prevent employment liability.

Provided training on specific personnel policies upon request by managerial staff.

Education and Training

Clerks/Non-Judicial Training

One of the most important objectives of the Administrative Office of the Courts Personnel Training Unit is educating today's judicial employees for tomorrow's challenges. By meeting this objective, productivity and services to the citizens of Maryland can be sustained and improved.

The training and media staff provided technical support, library and media support, and direct in-

structional services to the circuit court clerks' offices, court-related agencies, and the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts. During Fiscal Year 1996, as a result of feedback received from a clerks' office survey, the personnel training staff delivered 12 educational programs to 485 employees of the Judiciary.

On December 6, 1995, a revised version of the Motivational Training Program, developed for non-supervisory employees of the circuit court clerks' offices, was conducted for employees of the Fiscal Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Primary objectives of this innovative motivational workshop were to increase morale and to inspire performance excellence among the employees. Key training objectives highlighted during the program were the importance of exploring and accepting change; understanding personal fears about change; and learning how to identify and use personal strengths that will promote and strengthen teamwork. The training was supported by written handout materials, audiovisuals, and other creative training aids.

During October and November, 1995, a Land Recording Procedural Training Program was presented to 235 participants. Attendees included circuit court land recording clerks and supervisors, representatives of the Baltimore and Harford County Finance-Revenue Division, and employees of the Fiscal Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The four one-day regional seminars presented current issues and provided an update and legal review of land recording rules and procedures relevant to the processing of land instruments.

The agenda was planned by the Assistant Attorney General for the Courts, along with representatives from the clerks' offices.

The Assistant Attorney General delivered the opening legal overview that focused on recording taxes, deeds, instruments of transfer, mortgages, and other security instruments. The overview was supported by a detailed written handout that included pertinent Tax-Property Articles, Titles, Subtitles and Attorney General Opinions. In the afternoon, the Administrative Office of the Courts Judicial Information Systems (JIS) presented an overview of the future of statewide automation in land recording departments. Updates on the Courts Automated Indexing System (CAIS) and the Maryland Electronic Land Records Optical Imaging System (ELROI) were also presented and discussed.

In the spring of 1996, a training workshop was offered to supervisors and managers of the circuit court clerks' offices, Administrative Office of the Courts, and court-related agencies. The program, entitled Broadening Communication, was developed and delivered by Landa Associates.

Seven regional one-day programs were held throughout the State during May and June, 1996. The morning component on Effective Writing At Work focused on improving written communications, specifically in the area of documentation and performance appraisal. Participants learned skills and techniques for editing and revising in order to improve, condense, and clarify their written communications. The afternoon program spotlight turned to conflict resolution and the importance of good communication in resolving conflict. Several conflict resolution strategies and skills were introduced and reinforced during the afternoon session.

The program was so well received that the training unit sought funding to develop and implement Phase II. Following the success of

this endeavor, logistical planning and necessary program revisions soon began. The conflict resolution program Phase II will provide 50 statewide training programs and will reach over 1,100 employees of the Maryland Judiciary. The revised workshop, entitled Resolving Conflict to Improve Customer Service: "What's In It For Me?", will begin on August 16, 1996, and continue through the end of October 1996.

Education and Training Media

Accurately evaluating the true cost of training can be extremely difficult. Although classroom training will always play a role, we continue to explore new cost-effective methods to efficiently train larger audiences.

The training staff has learned from past experience that consistent quality, logistics, and timeliness are critical issues to be considered. Maximizing training resources has become a top priority. In the area of technology, new cost effective methods are being explored that will allow the learner to participate in training programs when a need exists and the time is conducive to the learner's schedule.

These future multi-media Computer Based Training (CBT) courses will be distributed statewide. Employees and managers will have the option of taking full-day or half-day training seminars. Regular training or refresher workshops can be taken in groups or on an individual basis.

The first CBT training program for circuit court clerks' offices on the increasingly complex applications of employment laws is scheduled to be released in September, 1996. This project, designed to provide uniform delivery of information, will help guide court support managers and supervisors

in making decisions regarding regulations and applications of the Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and their integration with existing State Worker's Compensation law.

Funded by a State Justice Institute grant, the disk-based program, that will operate from most PC's, will present AOC policy guidelines in both hypertext documents and dramatized scenarios. Information presented through the courseware focuses on management methods, in depth understanding of AOC guidelines, general understanding of relevant requirements of the three laws, and techniques for researching the laws.

In addition to the CBT project on Employment Laws, staff media specialists have offered media and technical assistance on the following projects during Fiscal Year 1996.

- Technical support for all Judicial Institute programs
- Technical support for the "Courts Under Attack" program conducted by the Public Awareness Committee
- Produced a Mock Trial video for the annual New Trial Judge Orientation
- Administrative Law Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association
- Video Project Administrative Hearing Process
- Judicial Institute of Maryland Program—*Racial & Ethnic Bias In the Courts—Vignettes*
- Revision of "Court Demeanor Vignette"
- Technical support for all Family Law Curriculum programs
- Technical support for New Trial Judge Orientation

Other projected CBT projects include: performance evaluation procedures, judicial technology training, CD-ROM interface.

Additions to the Non-Judicial Lending Library offer media training resources for employees of the circuit court clerks' offices and other court-related agencies. A resource catalog is updated and outlines the various training videos and support written materials that are available on a loan basis.

Judicial Institute of Maryland

The Judicial Institute of Maryland celebrated its fifteenth year of operation in 1996. Since its inception in 1981, the Institute has offered the Judiciary an annual curriculum from which judges may select courses that correspond to their individual needs. This year, the Board of Directors approved a comprehensive curriculum that consisted of 20 continuing judicial education courses, the Family Law Curriculum, and New Trial Judge Orientation.

Two hundred and twenty judges, representing 93 percent of the active trial and appellate judges, registered for the continuing judicial education courses presented in March, April, September, and October. All of the programs, with the exception of Computers and Legal History, were held at the People's Resource Center in Crownsville. The Judicial Information Systems' facility, located on Riva Road in Annapolis, provided a training room for Computers and the Court of Appeals served as a classroom for the Legal History program. Ten of the courses were new, while ten were revised and repeated.

The new courses were Employment Discrimination, Federal Constitutional Law, Basics of Business Associations, Judicial Re-

sponse to Attorney Misconduct, Restitution in Juvenile Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, Dealing with Pro-Se Litigants, Governmental Immunity, Post Conviction, Processing After Sentencing, and Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault. The latter course was funded by a State Justice Institute curriculum adaptation grant.

Courses revised and repeated were Evidence -The Adopted Rules, Judicial Discretion, Computers, Legal History, Handling the Capital Case, Landlord and Tenant Law, Humanities, Identifying and Counteracting Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, Writing Skills for the Judiciary, and Marital Property. Marital Property is an adjunct to the Family Law Curriculum which is a multi-day program for circuit court judges that focuses on important legal, economic, psychological, and case management issues as they relate to handling family law cases. The fourth session of the Family Law Curriculum was held January 23-26, 1996. Additional sessions will be held in the future to accommodate classes of new circuit court judges and domestic relations masters.

The New Trial Judge Orientation was presented on May 13-17, 1996, at the Doubletree Inn at the Colonnade in Baltimore City. This intensive five-day program was presented to newly appointed judges as well as those who were advanced from the District Court to the circuit court. A distinguished faculty comprised of Maryland judges and professionals guided the new class of 24 judges through the following important topics: The Americans with Disabilities Act, The Judicial Challenge, Judicial Ethics, The Domestic Violence Case, Landlord/Tenant Housing Issues, Selected Topics in Evidence,

Jury Instructions, District Court Special Proceedings, Business Law, Judicial Procedures to Initiate the Civil Commitment, Civil Motions, the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, Appellate Review, Sentencing Procedures, Fourth Amendment Update, Contract Damages, Judicial Response to Substance Abuse and DWI, Managing the Criminal Trial, and "Back in Chambers."

Judicial Education and Training Media Projects

In response to the increasing demand for training media, the Judicial Institute has added a second media developer to its staff and is upgrading its video and editing equipment. These additions and improvements will enhance the production efficiency and quality of the Institute's training videos, as well as those that involve clerk training.

This year, the media developers videotaped the plenary sessions of the Judicial Conference on Addictions, the Judicial Follies, the dedication day ceremony at the Courts of Appeal Building honoring Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy, and the Judicial Institute programs entitled Employment Discrimination, Evidence - The Adopted Rules, Handling the Capital Case, Judicial Response to Attorney Misconduct, Restitution in Juvenile Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, Landlord and Tenant Law, Governmental Immunity, Identifying and Counteracting Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, and Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault. The program "Courts Under Attack," sponsored by the American Bar Association, was also videotaped and the mock trial video used at New Trial Judge Orientation was revised and edited. All of the videotapes and accompa-

nying written materials have been added to the library's existing holdings and are available to judges upon request.

Judicial Information Systems

The Judicial Information Systems (JIS) unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is responsible for the administration and operation of the Judicial Data Center (JDC) and all automated data systems within the Maryland Judiciary.

In Fiscal Year 1996, the District Court automated Courtroom Segment was completed and installed in the majority of the District Court locations across the state. As of the end of the fiscal year, the only locations remaining to be implemented were Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Baltimore County. This system provides the District Court the ability to record information as events occur within the courtroom.

In 1995, JIS participated extensively with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) in the implementation of the Arrest Booking System (ABS) within the new Central Booking and Intake Facility (CBIF) in Baltimore City.

During the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 1996, a new online Bond System was implemented throughout the District Court that allows the clerks to access up-to-date bondsman and surety information via online terminals. This system replaces a system that was not current on a day-to-day basis and was dependent upon computer print-outs containing information that may be as much as 30 days old.

Throughout the fiscal year, the Civil Module of the Uniform Court System/Maryland (UCS/MD), which is the new Case Management System (CMS), was fully in production in the circuit court pilot site of Baltimore County. During that same period, work continued on the Criminal Module of the system which is scheduled to be installed in the pilot site in the fall of 1996. This system is in the process of being installed in other jurisdictions with the Civil Module being implemented first.

In addition to implementation in the pilot site, work is underway for installation of the UCS/MD system in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. This is a parallel effort, in conjunction with statewide deployment, that was undertaken with the creation of a separate team of employees which is assigned solely to the deployment of the system in the Eighth Judicial Circuit. This approach allows for deployment of the system to continue in the smaller circuit courts while, at the same time, providing the resources to prepare for, and ultimately install, the system in Baltimore City without reassigning resources or impacting the statewide deployment schedule.

In March, 1996, pilot site implementation in Prince George's County began for the new Electronic Land Record Optical Imagery (ELROI) system. This system was developed through JIS in conjunction with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) out of their Columbia, Maryland office. The system scans, indexes and stores digital images of Land Record documents on optical disk located in the Land Records Department. Those images are then available for viewing by clerk personnel and the general public such as title abstractors via retrieval workstations located in the Land

Records Department. In addition, the retrieved images may be printed on attached laser printers. An additional feature of this system is the ability to send a copy of an image, via facsimile phone line, to any user who may request an instrument via the JIS dialup system.

In keeping with the AOC's plan to incorporate as many years of Land Record information into the CAIS system as possible, work continued during Fiscal Year 1996 on the "back loading" of Land Record information. Testing of this process in the pilot site of Washington County was completed and other counties are now being "back loaded". It is planned to convert all magnetic data that was formerly maintained by the COTT Corporation for all jurisdictions that are on the CAIS system, some of which goes back as much as 30 years.

During Fiscal Year 1996, a Judiciary Home Page was established on the Internet which provides information pertaining to the Maryland Judiciary. At the present time, the information that is accessible via the Home Page relates primarily to general information pertaining to the courts and court related agencies. It is planned to continually expand the use of the Home Page and the Internet in general.

A major project that was completed in Fiscal Year 1996 was the statewide installation of the new Frame Relay network throughout the circuit courts. This network is the backbone of the new UCS/MD Case Management System and the ELROI Land Record System in that it will provide the ability to transmit and access data from various locations within the Maryland Judiciary. In addition, work was begun during the fiscal year to include all District Court locations within this network.

In June 1996, the JIS mainframe was upgraded to support the ever-growing processing and storage needs of the Maryland Judiciary. These needs are being dictated by the inclusion of the "back loaded" data for the Land Record systems, the increased caseloads being experienced throughout the Judiciary, the increased volumes of data that are required to be captured due to additional reporting requirements, and the need to communicate with federal, state and local agencies for the purpose of data sharing.

As has been the case for the past few years, office automation and the use of technology within the courts continued to grow at a rapid rate. For example, Electronic Mail (E-Mail) was installed in all circuit court locations so that critical information can be transmitted between the AOC and the Clerks of the Court. Local Area Networks (LAN's) were installed in some the circuit courts that had not yet been equipped with such technology. Numerous personal computers and printers were installed, with supporting software, throughout the Judiciary. This growth is expected to continue as additional functions are automated in the future.

Circuit Court Management Services

The Circuit Court Management Services unit operates under the direct supervision of the Deputy State Court Administrator. The unit was formed to assist in the oversight of the circuit court clerks' offices, pursuant to an electoral mandate that transferred responsibility for the management of these offices to the Judiciary, effective January 1, 1991.

Historically, the clerks' offices operated as substantially autonomous units of State government and, consequently, procedural uniformity among jurisdictions did not exist. Workload and staffing disparities gradually evolved. The General Assembly and the Legislative Auditor both recognized these inequities and, in accordance with their directives, the Administrative Office of the Courts engaged Circuit Court Management Services in an extensive evaluation of clerk operations.

Management audits of several clerks' offices statewide have been conducted by Circuit Court Management Services since 1991. Included in these audits have been the Clerks' Offices of the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. Additionally, studies with respect to staffing requirements, as well as operations assessments have been initiated in the Clerks' Offices of the Circuit Courts for Baltimore, Harford, and St. Mary's Counties. Studies on various facets of the Paternity, Civil and Juvenile Departments in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City have also been initiated.

During Fiscal Year 1996, Circuit Court Management Services coordinated the procurement and installation of work stations in the Clerks' Offices of the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. Projects to convert filing systems to open shelving or to expand open shelving systems were continued in Cecil, Dorchester, and Garrett Counties.

A comprehensive project to enhance the quality of subdivision and condominium plats maintained by the circuit court clerks' offices was developed by Circuit Court Management Services in coopera-

tion with the Maryland State Archives during the previous year. Work on that project continued in several jurisdictions, including Allegany, Baltimore, Calvert, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, during Fiscal Year 1996. The above-mentioned project entailed efforts to restore and film condominium and subdivision plat collections. In Baltimore County, a retrospective microfilm conversion of the entire plat collection was initiated, to be completed in four parts. To date, approximately 90 percent of the collection has been filmed. In addition, 16 jurisdictions have had portions of their land records transferred to aperture cards in an effort to conserve space in the clerks' offices. Other jurisdictions are expected to initiate similar projects during Fiscal Year 1997.

Circuit Court Management Services, in collaboration with the clerks' offices, continued its effort to convert copying systems in the Land Records departments to self-service debit card systems. During Fiscal Year 1996, the debit card system was installed and became operational in Baltimore City.

During Fiscal Year 1996, staff from Circuit Court Management Services provided oversight management to a project in the Criminal department of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. That project involved updating approximately 20,000 criminal case files.

Staff also revised the Civil Action Daily Case Log Sheet, allowing for the collection of pro se statistics. The revised form was distributed to clerks' offices statewide with the exception of the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. The aforementioned jurisdictions have automated systems; thus, alleviating the need to complete log sheets.

Circuit Court Management Services provided staff support to the Foster Care Grant Committee, the Task Force on Interpreters, and the Advisory Committee on Interpreters. Staff also served as the Judiciary's representative on the Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Board. Several committees formed by the Administrative Office of the Courts to address issues related to operations in the circuit court clerks' offices are also staffed by Circuit Court Management Services. Among those committees are the Advisory Committee on Land Records Technology and the Ad Hoc Committee on Land Records. Staff support was also provided to the Criminal Law Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference.

In relation to its work with the Interpreters' committees, Circuit Court Management Services, in collaboration with the University of Maryland, staffed workshops during Fiscal Year 1996 which were conducted as orientation/training tools for those persons desiring to serve as spoken or sign language interpreters in the courts of the State of Maryland. Detailed information with respect to work on interpreter issues can be found in the section of this report entitled "*Americans With Disabilities Act.*"

Quality Assurance Unit

The Quality Assurance Unit of Circuit Court Management Services is responsible for monitoring the accuracy of the filing statistics reported by the circuit courts. The Unit continues to validate the civil, criminal, and juvenile information that is reported to them by each jurisdiction. Further, staff visit jurisdictions to review with the clerk's staff statistical reporting requirements, as well as address any statistical reporting anomalies. Currently,

the Quality Assurance Unit is exploring the reporting of circuit court filing statistics from the new case management system.

Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement

The Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) provides for reimbursement by the Federal Government for Title IV-D child support services that are supplied by the circuit court clerks' offices. Title IV-D child support cases are filed by the State's Attorneys' Offices or special counsel appointed by the State Attorney General. The CRA is a contract between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

The Federal Government, working through the offices of the Child Support Enforcement Administration in Maryland, reimburses the State's General Fund for 66 percent of a circuit court clerk employee's salary for the time dedicated to child support tasks. It also reimburses 66 percent of the costs for postage, supplies, photocopies, and other related items. This figure has remained the same for the past four years that the Administrative Office of the Courts has supervised this contract.

Employees of the circuit court clerks' offices assist with the annual collection of data for the time and task studies; monthly collection of child support establishment and enforcement data; and monthly costs for expenditures. Their cooperation is the key to the success of the CRA.

The Select Committee on Gender Equality

The Select Committee on Gender Equality, a joint committee of the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland State Bar Association, is chaired by the Honorable Theresa A. Nolan from the District Court in Prince George's County.

The 20 judge and attorney members of the Committee serve on eight Subcommittees: Professionalism; Complaints; Domestic Violence; Legislation; Family Law Issues; Judicial Nominating Commissions and Judicial Applications; Role of Women in Law Schools; and Women in Law Firms. The full Committee met five times during Fiscal Year 1996. The Subcommittees also met frequently during the year.

Members of the Select Committee were active during the year refining the Professionalism Course for New Attorneys, working with the Rules Committee, meeting with officials at the law schools, and monitoring legislation. Several members of the Select Committee are planning an educational program on gender fairness for the administrative law judges. It will be held in September of 1996.

Sentencing Guidelines

In the Maryland circuit courts, sentences in most criminal cases are determined using recommended guidelines, which define sentencing ranges based upon information specific to the nature of an offense and criminal history of an offender. A statute enabling the Judiciary to institute voluntary guidelines was enacted in 1983. The Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board, com-

prised of circuit court judges and representatives from State criminal justice agencies and the private bar, was created in 1979 to develop and implement guidelines in four pilot jurisdictions. Maryland Sentencing Guidelines was established within the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide staff support to the Advisory Board and compile sentencing data.

Maryland Sentencing Guidelines provide comprehensive training in guideline applications to circuit court judicial personnel, as well as staff of the State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Division of Parole and Probation. The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual is issued on behalf of the Advisory Board and used by the circuit courts and State criminal justice agencies to reference the various sentencing matrices. An orientation on use of the Manual is provided to each newly appointed judge. Similar instruction, including a training video, also is afforded to employees of the circuit courts, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Division of Parole and Probation.

Supervised by an Assistant Administrator in Circuit Court Management Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Maryland Sentencing Guidelines processes worksheets which are used to produce statistical reports on sentencing patterns and anomalies, as well as compliance rates.

As Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board, Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan appointed a committee to review guidelines of offenses in conjunction with compliance ranges. The Sentencing Guidelines Revision Committee, chaired by Judge Dana M. Levitz, initially convened in Fiscal Year 1993. In addition to addressing the Advisory Board's general directives, the Committee specifically studied the impact of violations of proba-

tion upon compliance rates. In Fiscal Year 1995, the Committee proposed recommendations to revise sentencing guidelines matrices for person, property, and drug offenses, as well as modify seriousness categories for certain offenses. The Committee's recommendations were endorsed by the Advisory Board in October 1994 and presented to the Maryland Judicial Conference later the same month. Accordingly, appendices to the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual listing offenses and defining matrices for offenses committed after January 2, 1995, were revised. These revisions, however, were suspended by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, pending further consideration and input from interested and affected parties.

Currently, the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Department is developing enhanced software that will assist staff with their workload. Further, means are being explored to disseminate this software to the users of the Sentencing Guidelines. The proposed software has the ability to expedite the preparation of the Sentencing Guidelines, as well as assist in its calculations.

Fiscal Management and Procurement

Fiscal Management and Procurement prepares and monitors the annual Maryland Judiciary budget, excluding the District Court of Maryland. This budget preparation and monitoring function includes the budgets for all 24 circuit court clerks' offices. All accounts payable for the Judiciary, including all the clerks' offices, are processed through this office. Accounting records for revenues and accounts payable are kept by the staff in cooperation with the General Accounting Division of the State Comptroller's Office. In addition,

the Office prepares monthly reports showing budget balances and expenditures for distribution to the clerks' offices. The working fund is also the responsibility of the Fiscal Management and Procurement staff. Records are maintained in order for the Legislative Auditor to perform audits on the fiscal activities of the Judiciary.

General supplies and equipment are purchased by this office. Staff members also prepare and solicit competitive bids on equipment, furniture, and supplies. This activity includes purchasing of all forms, equipment and other supplies for the circuit court clerks' offices, as well as bid preparation for large projects. Bulk purchasing and blanket purchase orders of forms, copy paper and copy machine supplies have been established. These procedures have resulted in greater savings and inventory control.

In addition to handling this expanded purchasing activity, efforts are also being made to develop as much uniformity as possible among the various clerks' offices to effectuate cost savings. In Fiscal Year 1996, a one-year statewide purchasing agreement, affecting all the Judiciary, was established for all stationery supplies. This provided a significantly simplified approach to ordering, receiving and billing, as well, as insuring the most competitive price. A further expansion of the purchasing function added responsibility for Judicial Information Systems purchasing to the Fiscal Management and Procurement staff.

An automated inventory control system was established in 1987 for all furniture and equipment used by the Maryland Judiciary. This system uses a bar code attached to all equipment and furniture. Inventory is completed with a scanning device which automatically counts the items, producing financial totals

that are required by the State Comptroller's Office. Effective July 1, 1992, the clerks' offices were incorporated into this system. The Fiscal Management Unit, therefore, currently maintains the inventory for each clerk's office. The inventory control staff scan the furniture and equipment that has been bar coded. The new data provided by the scanner is then compared to the existing inventory list. Discrepancies are reported to the clerk's office and resolved before the inventory is certified as complete.

When Fiscal Management and Procurement staff assumed responsibility for functions previously handled by the circuit court clerks' offices, numerous internal organizational changes were required. One of these was the addition of an internal auditing function. In this capacity, staff auditors visit the clerks' offices, performing internal audits, follow-up audits to the Legislative Auditors and other data-gathering/record-keeping activities.

The clerks' offices have historically collected funds which are held in reserve until the court orders disposition. The internal auditors, along with other fiscal unit employees, now monitor these special fund monies. In addition, data is compiled for the Comptroller of the Treasury for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Fiscal Management and Procurement also monitors and compiles monthly financial data for the Federal Child Support Administration grant. This grant includes 23 counties and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Due to the extensive services provided, Montgomery County operates under a separate grant. Responsibility for this program requires preparation of 48 Federal budgets, in addition to the budget prepared for each county. Invoices are prepared each quarter for submission to the

Department of Human Resources for reimbursement by the Federal government. These invoices are detailed compilations of salaries and hours for each employee participating in the program statewide, as well as summaries of costs for supplies and other expenses.

Another program monitored by Fiscal Management and Procurement is the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program. Staff members oversee grants and monitor quarterly expenditure reports, as well as prepare a year-end annual report of CASA statewide activities for the chief judge of the Court of Appeals.

In addition, Fiscal Management and Procurement is involved in developing and implementing an automated cash register system and an accounts receivable system for the circuit court clerks' offices. These programs are being prepared to help the clerks' offices provide faster, more accurate services for the public. Both the development and installation phases of the automated cash register system have been completed. Now that computer based cash registers have been installed in all counties, an accompanying accounting software package has been developed. This has been installed in most offices as well. The accounts receivable program is available to the clerks' offices upon request.

Other responsibilities include distributing of payroll checks for all Judiciary personnel except District Courts and circuit courts; maintaining lease agreements for all leased property; monitoring the safety and maintenance records of the Judiciary automobile fleet; and performing assignments as directed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The District Court of Maryland

Fiscal Year 1996 brought the last full year of tenure for Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney, who served as the Court's Chief Judge from its inception in 1971. Coincidentally, this year also brought the Court's many employees together to celebrate its twenty-fifth year of service to the State.

These events gave the Court an occasion to reflect on its growth during its first quarter century under the stewardship of Chief Judge Sweeney. In 1971, when this statewide court of limited jurisdiction was created, the Court was housed in fifty buildings throughout the State, the majority of which were unsuitable for the Court's operations and for the citizens who had occasion to visit the Court. The Court is now housed in thirty-five newly-constructed or renovated facilities. In the past year, new court-houses have been dedicated in Hyattsville and Towson. The Court grew from a complement of 80 to 100 judges; from 140 to 210 District Court commissioners, and from approximately 700 to a total of 1,100 permanent and contractual nonjudicial employees. This growth was steady, careful, and necessary to correspond to the growth of the Court's work. From Fiscal Year 1972 to Fiscal Year 1996, the Court went from 227,000 to 588,000 civil filings per year; from 113,000 to 179,000 annual criminal filings; and from 439,000 to 1,021,000 motor vehicle cases.

Not only did the numbers grow, but also the jurisdiction. In 1971, judges of the District Court were authorized by law to hear civil cases involving no more than \$5,000. Today, the jurisdictional limit is \$20,000. Domestic violence

civil protective orders made no impact on the Court's docket in 1971. Today, all District courts serve these emergency needs of the community on a frequent and regular basis. The criminal jurisdiction of the District Court expanded as new laws were enacted creating new crimes.

Courts, as all other entities, draw on the past to face the future. The successes of the District Court of Maryland have served as examples to the Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts, which this year has carried on its assessment of the needs and directions for the courts of this State in the next century.

Maryland opened a central booking facility in Baltimore City in August, 1995. This represents a trend in the processing of criminal cases, from arrest through initial appearance. Several other jurisdictions in Maryland expect to build such facilities in the near future. For that reason, and because of the importance of the work at a central booking facility, the District Court has played an active role in assessing and meeting the special needs of the project in Baltimore City. We are challenged to work in close cooperation with other agencies to achieve a smooth and efficient system for processing prisoners.

New computer equipment has been incorporated with the courtroom segment of the Court's operation. This new system, which is up and running in ten of the Court's twelve districts, reduces significantly the amount of manual work performed by courtroom clerks. It therefore reduces the chance of error. It also generates clear, concise and complete computer-generated documents for the public and other agencies. This has been a tremendous technological advancement for the Court, and reminds us of the capabilities for posi-

tive technological change as we enter our second quarter century.

The District Court of Maryland is well prepared for its move into the coming years, which will bring a new Chief Judge and, perhaps, many changes brought about both by that change in leadership and, eventually, by the work of the Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts.

Assignment of Judges

Article IV, §18(b) of the Maryland Constitution provides the Chief Judge with the authority to make temporary assignments of active judges to the appellate and trial courts. Also, pursuant to Article IV, §3A and §1-302 of the Courts Article, the Chief Judge, with approval of the Court of Appeals, recalls former judges to sit in courts throughout the State. Their use enhances the Judiciary's ability to cope with growing caseloads, extended illnesses, and judicial vacancies. It

minimizes the need to assign full time judges, thus disrupting schedules and delaying case disposition.

Pursuant to the Maryland Rules, Circuit Administrative Judges assigned active judges within their circuits and exchanged judges between circuits upon designation by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Further by designating District Court judges as circuit court judges, vital assistance to these courts was provided in Fiscal Year 1996. This assistance consisted of 50 judge days. The Chief Judge of the District Court, pursuant to constitutional authority, made assignments internal to that Court to address backlogs, unfilled vacancies and extended illnesses. In Fiscal Year 1996, these assignments totaled 345 judge days. At the appellate level, the use of available judicial manpower continued. The Court of Special Appeals' caseload is being addressed by limitations on oral argument, assistance by central professional staff, and pre-hearing settlement conferences. The Chief

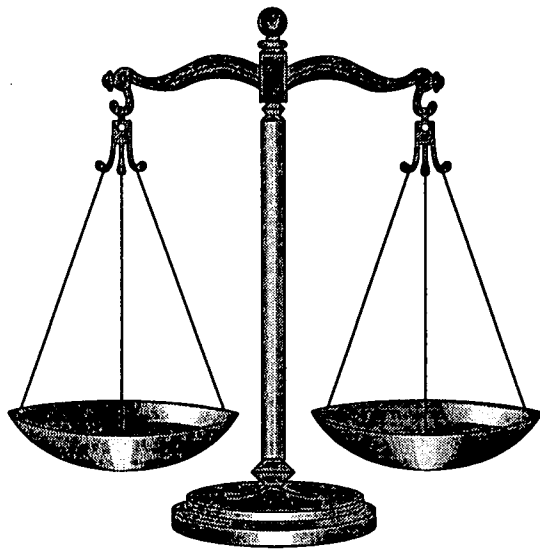
Judge of the Court of Appeals exercised his authority by designating appellate and trial judges to sit in both appellate courts to hear specific cases. Finally, a number of judges of the Court of Special Appeals were designated to different circuit courts for various lengths of time to assist those courts in handling the workload.

The number of days that former judges sat in Fiscal Year 1996 increased significantly in comparison to Fiscal Year 1995. The Chief Judge recalled 26 former circuit court judges and 6 former appellate judges to serve in the circuit courts for approximately 1,292 judge days for the reasons given. In addition, 16 former District Court judges, 6 former circuit court judges, and 1 former appellate judge were recalled to sit in that court, totaling approximately 1,251 judge days. Six former appellate judges were recalled to assist both the Court of Appeals and the Court of Special Appeals for a combined total of 202.8 judge days.



*District Court/Multi-Service
Center
District 3
Cecil County
Elkton, Maryland*

COURT-RELATED UNITS



Court-Related Units



Board of Law Examiners

In Maryland, the various courts were originally authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law. The examination of attorneys remained a function of the courts until 1898 when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898). The Board is presently composed of seven lawyers appointed by the Court of Appeals.

The Board and its staff administer bar examinations twice annually during the last weeks of February and July. Each is a two-day examination of not more than

twelve hours nor less than nine hours of writing time.

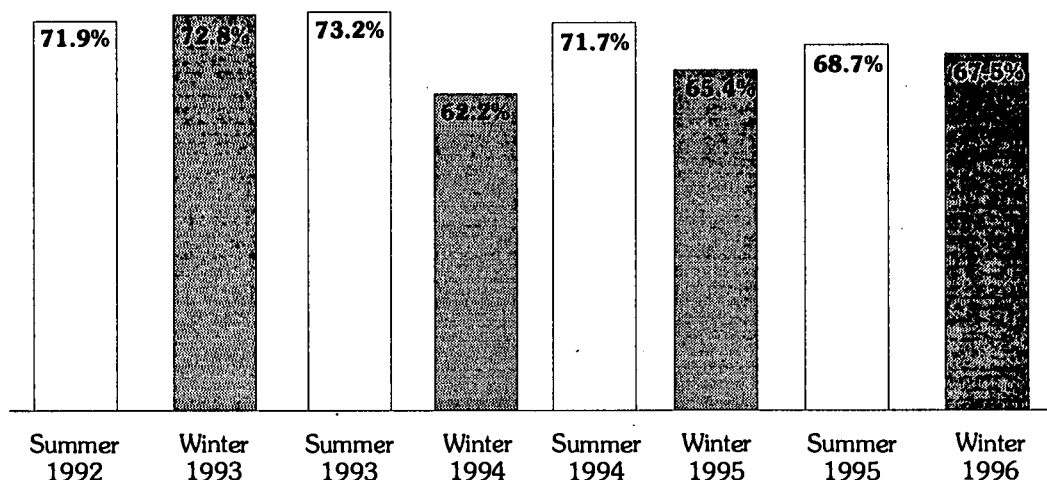
Commencing with the summer 1972 examination and pursuant to rules adopted by the Court of Appeals, the Board adopted, as part of the overall examination, the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). This is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice questions and answers, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE test generally is administered on the second day of the examination. The first day is devoted to the traditional essay examination, prepared and graded by the Board. The MBE test

is now used in fifty jurisdictions. The states not using the MBE are Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, and Washington. It is a six-hour test that covers six subjects: contracts, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts and constitutional law.

Maryland does not participate in the administration of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) prepared under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Pursuant to the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, the subjects covered by the Board's test (essay examination) shall be within, but need not include, all of the following subject areas: agency, busi-

PERCENT OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TAKING THE BAR EXAMINATION



The State Board of Law Examiners

Jonathan A. Azrael, Esquire; Chairman, Baltimore County Bar & Baltimore City Bar
 John F. Mudd, Esquire; Charles County Bar
 Robert H. Reinhart, Esquire; Allegany County Bar
 Christopher B. Kehoe, Esquire; Talbot County Bar
 Patricia M. Goldberg, Esquire; Montgomery County Bar
 Robert L. Bloom, Esquire; Baltimore County Bar, Monumental City Bar
 Maurene Epps Webb, Esquire; Prince George's County Bar

Results of examinations given by the State Board of Law Examiners during Fiscal Year 1996 are as follows:

Examination	Number of Candidates	Total Successful Candidates	Number of Candidates Taking First Time	Number of Candidates Passing First Time*
JULY 1995	1,590	1,093 (68.7%)	1,371	1,026 (74.8%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	261	196 (75.0%)	223	183 (82.0%)
University of Maryland	207	163 (78.7%)	190	158 (83.1%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	1,122	734 (65.4%)	958	685 (71.5%)
FEBRUARY 1996	800	540 (67.5%)	422	326 (77.2%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	106	63 (59.4%)	51	37 (72.5%)
University of Maryland	67	50 (74.6%)	28	23 (82.1%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	627	427 (68.1%)	343	266 (77.5%)

*Percentages are based upon the number of first-time applicants.

ness associations, commercial transactions, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, family law, Maryland civil procedure, property, and torts. Single questions on the essay examination may encompass more than one subject area and subjects are not specifically labeled on the examination paper.

Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Maryland adopted by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, June 28, 1990, effective August 1, 1990, requires all persons recommended for bar admission to complete a course on legal professionalism during the period between the announcement of the examination results and the scheduled bar admission ceremony. This course is administered by the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc., and was implemented beginning with the February 1992 examinations.

The results of the examinations given during Fiscal Year 1996 are as follows: a total of 1,590 applicants sat for the July 1995 examination with 1,093 (68.7 percent) obtaining a passing grade, while 800 sat for the February 1996 examination with 540 (67.5 percent) being successful.

Passing percentages for the two previous fiscal years are as follows: July 1993, 73.2 percent; February 1994, 62.2 percent; July, 1994, 71.7 percent; February, 1995, 65.4 percent.

In addition to administering two regular bar examinations per year, the Board also processes applications for admission filed under Rule 13 which governs out-of-state attorney applicants who must take and pass an attorney examination. That examination is an essay test limited in scope and subject matter to the rules in Maryland which govern practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases and also the

Rules of Professional Conduct. The test is of three hours' duration and is administered on the same day as the essay test for the regular bar examination.

A total of 97 applicants took the Attorney Examination administered in July 1995. Out of this number, 82 passed. This represents a passing rate of 84.5 percent.

In February 1996, 118 applicants took the examination. Out of this number, 109 passed. This represents a passing rate of 92.3 percent.

Rules Committee

Under Article IV, Section 18 (a) of the Maryland Constitution, the Court of Appeals is empowered to regulate and revise the practice and procedure in, and the judicial administration of, the courts of this State; and under Annotated Code of Maryland, Courts and Judicial

Proceedings Article, §13-301, the Court of Appeals may appoint "a standing committee of lawyers, judges, and other persons competent in judicial practice, procedure or administration" to assist the Court in the exercise of its rule-making power. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, often referred to simply as the Rules Committee, was originally appointed in 1946 to succeed an *ad hoc* Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure created in 1940. Its members meet regularly to consider proposed amendments and additions to the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure and submit recommendations for change to the Court of Appeals.

Completion of the comprehensive reorganization and revision of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure continues to be the primary goal of the Rules Committee. Phase I of this project culminated with the adoption by the Court of Appeals of Titles 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure, which became effective July 1, 1984. Phase II of the project began with the adoption of Title 8, dealing with practice and procedure in the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals, which became effective July 1, 1988; Title 6, dealing with practice and procedure in the orphans' courts, which became effective January 1, 1991; Title 7, dealing with appellate and other judicial review in the circuit courts, which became effective July 1, 1993; and Title 5, containing a code of evidence, which became effective July 1, 1994. The Committee is continuing its work on Phase II, which involves the remainder of the Maryland Rules, Chapters 900 through 1200.

During the past year, the Rules Committee submitted to the Court of Appeals certain rules

changes and additions considered necessary. Pending before the Court of Appeals at the beginning of the fiscal year were proposed new Rules 2-652 and 902A and proposed amendments to Rules 1-312, 4-251, 4-252, 8-207, 8-303, BU7, BU8, BU10, and 1228 f contained in the One Hundred Thirtieth Report of the Rules Committee, published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 22, Issue 11 (May 26, 1995). In light of comments received from the bar, the Rules Committee revised the proposed amendment to Rule BU10.

By Order dated September 11, 1995, effective January 1, 1996, the Court of Appeals adopted proposed new Rules 2-652 and 902A and the proposed amendments to Rules 1-312, 4-251, 4-252, 8-207, 8-303, BU7, BU8, BU10 as revised, and 1228 f. That Order was published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 22, Issue 20 (September 29, 1995).

The One Hundred Thirty-First Report, published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 22, Issue 24 (November 10, 1995), contained proposed new Rule 1206, proposed new form interrogatories, and proposed amendments to Rules 2-421, 4-348, 4-406, 7-202, 1231, 1232, 1233, and 1234.

The principal aspects of the proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-First Report were:

(1) Amendments to Rules 4-348, 4-406, 7-202, 1231, 1232, 1233, and 1234 conform those rules to recent legislation.

(2) The deletion of Rule 1206 and addition of new Rule 1206 eliminate the need for a rule change every time a county jury plan is changed.

(3) The addition of form interrogatories to the Appendix of Forms, together with a conforming

amendment to Rule 2-421, provides approved forms for seeking general information and information in domestic relations, motor vehicle tort, and personal injury cases.

A supplement to the One Hundred Thirty-First Report dated November 21, 1995, contained additional amendments to conform the rules to statutory changes. The principal aspects of the proposed additional amendments, recommended for adoption on an emergency basis, were:

(1) Amendments to Rules 1231, 1232, 1233, and 1234 make corrective revisions in those rules and conform them to the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

(2) An amendment to Rule 4-343 conforms the Findings and Sentencing Determination form in section (e) of the Rule to Code, Article 27, §§413 (d)(10) and (g)(1).

(3) An amendment to Form 904-S in the Appendix of Forms changes the statement of the maximum amount of restitution in a juvenile proceeding from \$5,000 to \$10,000, in conformity with Chapter 8, Laws of 1995.

By Order dated November 21, 1995, effective December 1, 1995, the Court of Appeals adopted, on an emergency basis, amendments to Rule 4-343, 4-348, 4-406, 7-202, 1231, 1232, 1233, and 1234 and to Form 904-S in the Appendix of Forms. That Order was published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 22, Issue 26 (December 22, 1995).

At an open meeting on January 18, 1996, the Court of Appeals made modifications to certain of the proposed form interrogatories. By Order dated January 18, 1996, effective July 1, 1996, the Court adopted the form interrogatories as modified, rescinded former Rule 1206, and adopted new Rule 1206

and the amendment to Rule 2-421. That Order was published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 23, Issue 6 (March 15, 1996).

The One Hundred Thirty-Second Report, published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 22, Issue 24-PART II (November 24, 1995), contained proposed new Titles 9 through 16, comprising a major reorganization of the rules in Chapters 900, 1100, and 1200 and the Maryland District Rules, as follows:

(1) Title 9 deals with family law actions and includes the rules governing (a) adoption and guardianships that terminate parental

rights (the current "D" Rules) and (b) divorce and annulment (the current "S" Rules).

(2) Title 10 deals with fiduciaries, including guardianships other than those included in Title 9 (the current "R" and "V" Rules).

(3) Title 11 deals with juvenile causes (the current Chapter 900 Rules).

(4) Title 12 deals with property actions, including condemnation, mechanics' liens, partition, redemptions of ground rents, and replevin and detinue (the current "U," "BG," "BJ," "Y," and "BQ" Rules).

(5) Title 13 deals with receivers and assignees (the current "BP" Rules).

(6) Title 14 deals with sales of property, including foreclosures, judicial sales, sales of burial grounds, and tax sales (the current "W," "BR," "J," and "BS" Rules).

(7) Title 15 deals with other special proceedings not subject to topical combination or justifying their own separate title, including arbitration, change of name, contempt, habeas corpus, health claims arbitration, injunctions, judicial release from certain institutions, mandamus, actions involving the

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

Hon. Alan M. Wilner, Chairman, Court of Special Appeals

Lowell R. Bowen, Esq.
Baltimore City Bar

Prof. Robert R. Bowie
Talbot County Bar; *Emeritus*

Albert D. Brault, Esq.
Montgomery County Bar

Robert L. Dean, Esq.
Deputy State's Attorney, Montgomery County

Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr.
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

Bayard Z. Hochberg, Esq.
Baltimore County Bar

H. Thomas Howell, Esq.
Baltimore County Bar

Hon. G. R. Hovey Johnson
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Harry S. Johnson, Esq.
Baltimore City Bar

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Baltimore City Bar

James J. Lombardi, Esq.
Prince George's County Bar

Hon. John F. McAuliffe
Court of Appeals (retired); *Emeritus*

Anne C. Ogletree, Esq.
Caroline County Bar

Hon. Kenneth C. Proctor
Circuit Court for Baltimore County (retired); *Emeritus*

Hon. Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt
District Court, Baltimore City

Linda M. Schuett, Esq.
Baltimore City Bar

Larry W. Shipley
Clerk, Circuit Court for Carroll County

Hon. Norman R. Stone, Jr.
State Senator, Baltimore County

Melvin J. Sykes, Esq.
Baltimore City Bar

Roger W. Titus, Esq.
Montgomery County Bar

Hon. Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.
State Delegate, Prince George's County

Robert A. Zarnoch, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General

Sandra F. Haines, Esq., Reporter
Sherie B. Libber, Esq., Assistant Reporter

Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund, and wrongful death (the current "E," "BH," "P," "Z," "BY," "BB," "R80," "BE," "BW," and "Q" Rules).

(8) Title 16 deals with general court administration and with the rules governing attorneys, judges, and other court personnel.

The principal aspects of the proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Second Report were:

(1) Substantive and stylistic revisions are made to the rules in Chapter 1100, Subtitles A, D, E, J, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, Y, Z, BB, BD, BE, BG, BH, BJ, BL, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BW, and BY, and those in the Maryland District Rules, Chapter 1100, Subtitles P, BB, BQ, and BW. Those rules are repealed — some outright, most in favor of their respective replacements. Conforming amendments are made to existing rules in Titles 1 through 8.

(2) Forms 22a, 23, 24, 25, and 26 in the Appendix of Forms are deleted.

(3) The rules governing juvenile causes (Chapter 900), divorce and annulment (Chapter 1100, Subtitle S), attorney trust accounts (Chapter 1100, Subtitle BU), attorney discipline (Chapter 1100, Subtitle BV), and court administration (Chapter 1200 and Maryland District Rules, Chapter 1200) are transferred, without revision except as to internal cross references, to the new titles and renumbered accordingly. The transfer is without readoption. Work on the substantive revision of the transferred rules remains to be completed by the Rules Committee.

At open meetings in February, March, April, and June, 1996, the Court of Appeals considered comments of the bench and bar, along with supplemental redrafts and revisions submitted by the Rules Com-

mittee, and made modifications to certain of the proposed changes. By Order dated June 5, 1996, published in the *Maryland Register*, Vol. 23, Issue 14 - PART II (July 5, 1996), the Court adopted the rules changes proposed in the One Hundred Thirty-Second Report, as modified, with an effective date of January 1, 1997.

In addition to developing proposed new rules and amendments to existing rules, the Rules Committee and its staff maintain rules history archives; provide research assistance to judges, lawyers, and others who have rules history questions; and participate in educational programs involving the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Maryland State Law Library

The objective of the Maryland State Law Library is to provide support for all the legal and general research activities of the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, and other court-related units within the Judiciary. A full range of information services is also extended to every branch of State government and to citizens throughout Maryland.

The mission of the Maryland State Law Library, as a support unit of the state court system, is to provide access for the law related information needs of the Judiciary, as well as the legal community, government agencies and the public. The library pursues a full range of traditional and technologically enhanced service strategies that provide timely, accurate and efficient access to the sources of law, including federal, state and local government resources.

Originally established by an act of the Legislature in 1827, the library, currently staffed by 10 full-

time equivalents and two part-time professional librarians, is governed by a Library Committee whose powers include appointment of the director of the library, as well as general rule-making authority.

With a collection of over 320,000 volumes, this facility offers researchers access to three distinct and comprehensive libraries of law, general reference/government information and Maryland history and genealogy. Of special note are the library's holdings of state and federal government publications which add tremendous latitude to the scope of research materials found in most law libraries.

Fiscal Year 1996 collection development activities concentrated on filling gaps in the legal treatise and law-related finding aids areas of the holdings. Notable additions include the C.I.S. U.S. Serial Set Index, which provides subject access to thousands of volumes of the Congress Serial Set, CD ROM products including Shepard's, Regional Reporter Citations, and West's, Maryland Digest using Windows based software. Federal depository publications continue to enhance the breadth and depth of information available to the user. The library received its triennial Government Printing Office inspection and received an exemplary rating for this collection's organization, access and timely processing of materials.

Other programs continued this year included the microfilming of Court of Special Appeals unreported opinions 1988-date, the library's participation in the Library Assistance to State Institutions photocopying service, and active use of the library's new Internet account, which is providing reference staff with increasing access to law and law-related information never before available.

On-line cataloging and reclassification of the entire collection continue to be a high priority effort. Over 4,100 titles have been processed on OCLC during Fiscal Year 1996.

Progress was made during the year on an automation plan for the library. An outside consultant assisted with the design of a plan to automate the major library functions: cataloging, serials control and acquisitions. An RFP will be ready to be circulated to library automation vendors in September, 1996. Phase I of the automation program will address implementation of an online public access catalog of the library's holdings.

Technical assistance was provided to three circuit court libraries: Howard, Kent, and Frederick Counties, in the further development of their library services. Consultations included collection development, space planning, and information on computer-assisted legal research systems and cataloging assistance.

During the past year, the library continued to participate in RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) through Anne Arundel County. This program has provided the Library with a number of part-time volunteers, who continue with a number of important indexing, research and clerical projects.

Publications that continue to be made available by the library include a Guide to the Services of the Maryland State Law Library; Ghost-hunting: Finding Legislative Intent in Maryland; A Checklist of Sources. Bibliographies or pathfinders that have been produced include Sources of Basic Genealogical Research in the Maryland State Law Library; A Sampler; Researching the Bill of Rights in the Maryland State Law Library, (Rev. 1991); D.W.I. In Maryland: Se-

lected Sources, (Rev. 1991); Recognizing and Reading Legal Citations Rev. (1994); and Breaking Barriers- Access to Main Street: Pathfinder on the Americans With Disabilities Act P.L. 101-336. Pathfinders compiled by staff and a graduate school intern include guides on Change of Name, Landlord-Tenant, Jury Verdict Awards, Wage and Hour Laws and Criminal Record Expungements, Emancipation of Children, and Sources on Crime Statistics.

Members of the staff continue to be active on the lecture circuit, addressing high school and college classes, as well as professional organizations on the basics of legal research techniques, legislative and judicial topics and current methods of electronic research. Twenty guided tours were conducted by reference staff during the year for students, librarians, and foreign dignitaries. The reference staff coordinated and presented the library's fourth annual Legal Research Teach-In. Entitled, "Getting Around on Legal CD's". This activity was held May 22, 1996. Ten major law book publishers demonstrated new CD ROM products in an all day program which was well attended by a variety of interested groups and individuals from the legal community. Other seminars sponsored by the library were research oriented educational efforts aimed at public/academic librarians, support staff from the U.S. Justice Department and high school law-related education classes. Library staff and the Director began planning for the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference, which will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center in July, 1997.

Located on the first floor of the Courts of Appeal Building, the Library is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

- 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. -9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Summary of Library Use Fiscal 1996

Reference inquiries	28,000
Volumes circulated to patrons: Direct and I.L.L.	4,326
In-Person Visitors	30,900

Attorney Grievance Commission

The Attorney Grievance Commission was created, effective July 1, 1975, by Rule of Court. Its mission is to supervise and administer the discipline of Maryland attorneys, including those on inactive status (BV2, Maryland Rules). The Commission has additional jurisdiction to investigate complaints about attorneys, not admitted in Maryland, who engage in the practice of law in this State and violate the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Commission members are appointed by the Court of Appeals for a term of four years and is comprised of eight attorneys and two non-lawyers. No member is eligible for reappointment immediately following the completion of a full four year term. The Chairperson of the Commission is designated by the Court. Currently, David D. Downes, Esq. of Baltimore County serves in that position. Members of the Commission serve without compensation.

The Commission, subject to approval by the Court of Appeals, appoints an attorney to serve as Bar Counsel. Bar Counsel's powers and duties are set forth in Maryland Rule BV4b. Bar Counsel serves at the pleasure of the Commission.

The Commission supervises the activities of Bar Counsel and staff and reviews each month the activities of every staff attorney and investigator. The Commission suggests any needed disciplinary procedural Rule changes to the Court.

An additional function of the Commission, under the BV Rules, is to receive notices of overdrafts of an attorney's trust account from approved banking institutions. Approved institutions must enter into an agreement with the Commission to provide these notices. Seventy-seven notifications were received in Fiscal Year 1996. Twenty of these required additional investigation and forty-two overdraft notification files were closed after receipt of adequate explanation. Fifteen were pending disposition at the close of Fiscal Year 1996.

Bar Counsel is empowered to issue subpoenas pursuant to Rule BV4c after receipt of prior written approval of the Chair or acting Chair of the Commission. Bar Counsel also seeks injunctions against those engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. Several injunctions were obtained this past fiscal year. In addition, it was necessary to undertake the conservatorship of a deceased attorney involving large amounts of staff time.

Rule BV2d provides for a disciplinary fund. It is a condition precedent to practice law in Maryland to pay an annual assessment set by order of the Court of Appeals. The assessment is billed at the same time as the assessment for the Clients' Security Trust Fund. The assessment for the disciplinary

fund is currently \$65.00 per year. The proposed expenditure of funds by the Commission is approved by the Court of Appeals prior to the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). The budget is public and is published in the Commission's Annual Report. Late fees are assessed for those attorneys who fail to pay the yearly assessment on time.

Commission staff includes Bar Counsel, a Deputy Bar Counsel and seven Assistant Bar Counsel. The Commission employs seven investigators, an office manager, a paralegal, nine secretaries and a receptionist.

In addition to staff review, the Commission analyzes monthly income and expenditures in light of the approved yearly budget. The

5 Year Summary of Disciplinary Action

	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
Inquiries Received (No Misconduct)	1,433	1,542	1,475	1,594	1,532
Complaints Received (Prima Facie Misconduct Indicated)	426	493	736	630	579
Totals	1,659	2,035	2,211	2,224	2,111
Complaints Concluded	314	471	569	607	580
Disciplinary Action by No. of Attorneys:					
Disbarred	1	4	4	5	4
Disbarred by Consent	10	16	12	10	8
Suspension (and BV 16 Suspensions)	17	16	19	18	24
Public Reprimand	1	2	3	0	2
Private Reprimands (by Review Board and Bar Counsel)	20	10	13	17	25
Dismissed by Court	1	0	2	3	2
Inactive Status (includes Inactive by Consent)	4	5	6	2	3
Petitions for Reinstatement (Granted)	3	3	2	6	4
Petitions for Reinstatement (Denied)	3	2	0	1	2
Resignations	0	0	1	0	0
Total No. of Attorneys Disciplined	60	56	62	62	74

Commission's financial records are audited and a yearly report is filed with the Court of Appeals. A surety bond is maintained for Bar Counsel, the office manager and a Commissioner. Two signatures are required for each Commission check.

A grievance which is not dismissed is referred to an Inquiry Panel for a hearing. A panel consists of attorneys and lay members. A panel is selected from an Inquiry Committee composed of attorneys and non-lawyers from each county in the State and from Baltimore City. Two-thirds of the Committee are lawyers selected by local bar associations. The non-lawyers are selected by the Commission. Rule BV5c permits the Commission to determine the number of members of the Inquiry Committee necessary to conduct disciplinary hearings. Members of the Inquiry Committee are appointed for terms of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

A Review Board, consisting of fifteen attorneys and three non-lawyers, is also provided for the BV Rules. The appointment to the Board is for three years. No member is eligible for reappointment for a term immediately following the expiration of the member's service for one full term of three years. The Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association selects the attorney members of the Review Board. The Commission selects the non-lawyer members from the State at large after soliciting input from the Maryland State Bar Association. Judges are not permitted to serve on either the Inquiry Committee or the Review Board. The Board reviews matters referred to it under the BV Rules by an Inquiry Panel. It is the Board (excepting certain criminal convictions) which directs Bar Counsel to file

public charges against an attorney in the Court of Appeals.

The Commission received a total of 1,532 grievances classified as "inquiries" in Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 1,594 the prior fiscal year. Formal docketed complaints in Fiscal Year 1996 totaled 579, compared with 630 in Fiscal Year 1995. The decrease in docketed complaints again resulted from a fewer number of complaints about attorney advertising. Total grievances for Fiscal Year 1996 were 2,111, compared with 2,224 in Fiscal Year 1995. Pending complaints (those in which investigations and hearings have not been completed) totaled 730 at the end of this fiscal year, compared with 731 at the end of last fiscal year.

Twelve lawyers were disbarred this year, compared with 15 last year. Suspensions by the Court of Appeals increased from 17 to 22. There were two suspensions under Rule BV 16 compared, to one last year. There were two public reprimands this year, compared to none last year. Private reprimands increased from 17 to 25. Three lawyers were placed on inactive status this year, compared to two last year. Four lawyers were reinstated. Two petitions for reinstatement were denied.

The Commission's Annual Report is distributed to each volunteer in the disciplinary system, as well as to courts, libraries, and other disciplinary agencies. That report, in addition to the material in this short report, reflects the many activities of Bar Counsel and staff and includes additional statistical information.

The Commission provides financial support to the Lawyer Counseling program of the Maryland State Bar Association. That program aids in the detection and assistance to attorneys addicted to

alcohol, drugs, or who suffer from mental illness and psychological problems. Many from this group have disciplinary complaints filed which assert a lack of competence or diligence in handling legal matters or involve a misuse of client funds or funds of others.

The Commission maintains a toll-free intrastate number (1-800-492-1660) as a convenience to complainants and our volunteers.

Clients' Security Trust Fund

The Clients' Security Trust Fund was established by an act of the Maryland Legislature in 1965 (Code, Article 10, Section 43). The statute empowers the Court of Appeals to provide by rule for the operation of the Fund and to require from each lawyer an annual assessment as a condition precedent to the practice of law in the State of Maryland. Rules of the Court of Appeals that are now in effect are set forth in Maryland Rule 1228.

The purpose of the Clients' Security Trust Fund is to maintain the integrity and protect the name of the legal profession. It reimburses clients for losses to the extent authorized by these rules and deemed proper and reasonable by the trustees. This includes losses caused by misappropriation of funds by members of the Maryland Bar acting either as attorneys or as fiduciaries (except to the extent to which they are bonded).

Nine trustees are appointed by the Court of Appeals from the Maryland Bar. One trustee is appointed from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and the Seventh Appellate Judicial Circuit. There are two trustees appointed from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit. One additional lay trustee is appointed by the Court of Appeals

from the State at large. Trustees serve on a staggered seven-year basis.

The Fund began its thirtieth year on July 1, 1995, with a balance of \$2,140,859. That figure compares with a Fund balance of \$2,016,862 on July 1, 1994. The Fund ended its thirtieth year on June 30, 1996, with a balance of \$2,552,198.

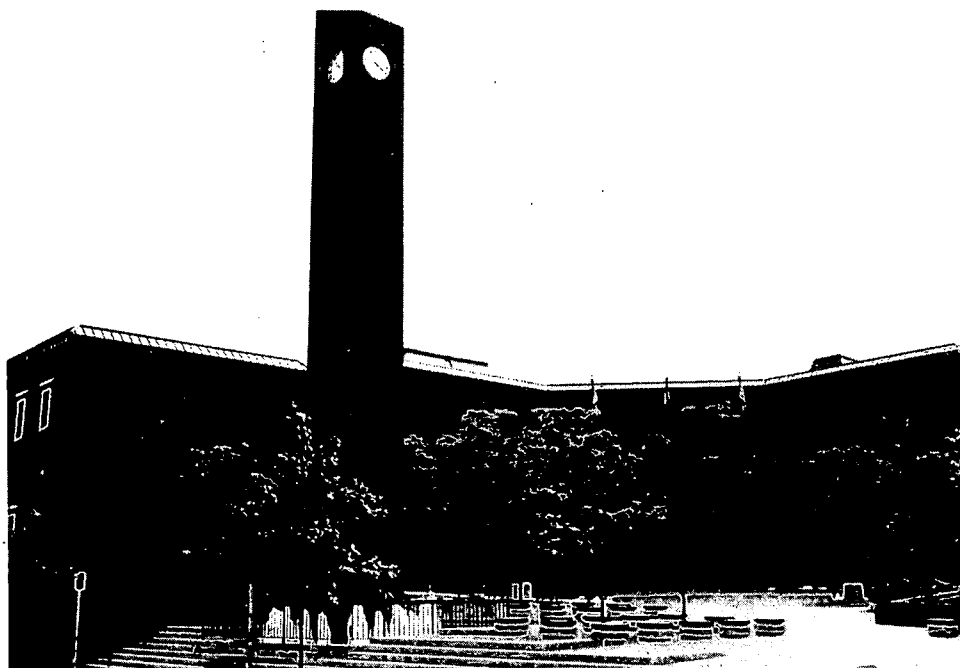
The Trustees met on four occasions during Fiscal Year 1996. At

their September 29, 1995, meeting, the following members were elected to serve as officers through the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996: Victor H. Laws, Esq., Chairman; Barbara Ann Spicer, Esq., Vice Chair; Vincent L. Gingerich, Esq., Secretary; and Isaac Hecht, Esq., Treasurer.

During Fiscal Year 1996, the Trustees decided 128 claims and paid forty-seven (47) claims totaling \$168,021.13, less an adjustment of \$797.63, for a net total of

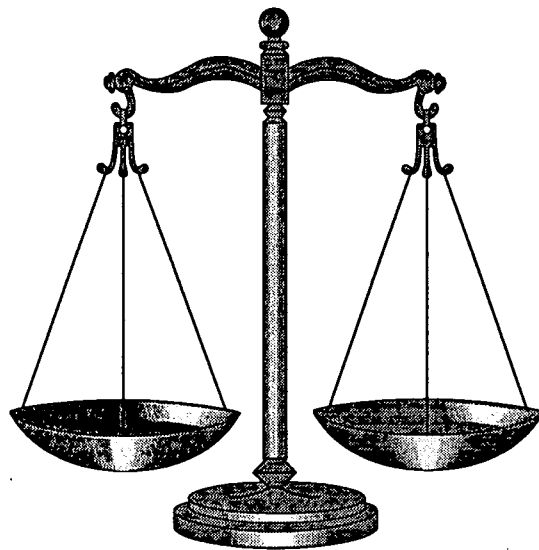
\$167,223.50. At the close of the fiscal year, there were 157 pending claims with a possible liability in excess of \$3,123,318. Included in the claims were twenty (20) for which an amount was not stated. These claims are in the process of investigation.

The Fund derived the sum of \$511,332 from assessments and had interest income of \$146,245 during Fiscal Year 1996. On June 30, 1996, there were 24,919 lawyers subject to annual assessments.



*District and Circuit Court
District 11
Sixth Judicial Circuit
Frederick County
Frederick, Maryland*

JUDICIAL CONFERENCES



Judicial Conferences



The Maryland Judicial Conference

The Maryland Judicial Conference was organized in 1945 by the Honorable Ogle Marbury, then Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. It currently exists under provisions of Maryland Rule 1226, which directs it "to consider the status of judicial business in the various courts, to devise means for relieving congestion of dockets where it may be necessary, to consider improvements of practice and procedure in the courts, to consider and recommend legislation, and to exchange ideas with respect to the improvement of the administration of justice in Maryland and the judicial system in Maryland."

The Conference consists of judges of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the circuit courts for the counties and Baltimore City, and the District Court of Maryland. The Conference meets annually in plenary session with the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals as Chair. The State Court Administrator serves as Executive Secretary.

Between annual sessions, Conference work is conducted by an Executive Committee and by a number of standing committees covering various subjects relevant to overall Judiciary operations. At present, the standing committees consist of the Civil Law Committee, the Criminal Law Committee, the Juvenile Law Committee, the Family and Domestic Relations Law Committee, the Child Support Enforcement Committee, the Mental

Health, Alcoholism, and Addiction Committee, and the Public Awareness Committee. These committees are established by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Chief Judge. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides staff support to each Conference committee.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of 17 judges elected by their peers from all court levels in the State. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the Chief Judge of the District Court serve as ex-officio nonvoting members. The Committee elects its own chair and vice-chair. Its major duties are to perform the functions of the Conference between plenary sessions and to submit recommendations for improving the administration of justice in Maryland to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Appeals, and to the full Conference as appropriate. The Executive Committee may also submit recommendations to the Governor, to the General Assembly, or to both. These recommendations are transmitted through the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and are forwarded to the Governor or General Assembly, or both, with any comments or additional recommendations deemed appropriate by the Chief Judge. During each annual legislative session, the Executive Committee appoints a Legislative Subcommittee to review relevant legislation. This

Subcommittee coordinates with each Conference standing committee and helps the Executive Committee formulate a Judiciary position on important legislative matters.

The Executive Committee elected the Honorable James T. Smith, Jr., Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, as its chair, and the Honorable Gerard F. Devlin, Associate Judge of the District Court for Prince George's County, as its vice-chair.

During each year, the Executive Committee generally meets monthly except during the summer. Over the course of the past year, the Committee reviewed the work of the various committees and also considered certain issues on its own volition. Selected matters were subsequently referred to the General Assembly for action.

1996 Meeting of the Maryland Judicial Conference

The Forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Maryland Judicial Conference was held on May 9 and 10, 1996, at the Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Reports from various Committees were presented at the business meeting. These included reports from the Judicial Compensation Committee, Judicial Ride-Along Program, and preliminary reports by chairs of three committees of the Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts (Committee on Structure and Governance; Committee on Selection, Evaluation, and

Tenure of Judges and Other Court Personnel; and Committee on Criminal, Juvenile, and Family Matters). Other business consisted of a briefing on the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy along with reports on legislation and the Resolutions Committee. The remainder of the two-day Conference was devoted to educating judges on issues involved with substance abuse and addictions. The Conference was attended by all judges in the State.

Plenary sessions included "Recovery Aspects of Addiction" by Richard M. Prodey, M.A., M.Ed.; "Treatment Aspects of Addictions" by Father Joseph Martin; and "Medical Aspects of Addictions" by John Steinberg, M.D. After each session, various workshops were given on related topics. Participants could attend those workshops of most interest to them.

During the afternoon of the second day, a panel presentation was conducted where representatives from self-help groups shared their experiences in recovery. The panel was moderated by Carol Porto, an expert in the field. After a question and answer session, the Conference adjourned.

Conference of Circuit Judges

Pursuant to Rule 1207, the Conference of Circuit Judges makes recommendations on the effective administration of the circuit courts. It is composed of sixteen members including the eight Circuit Administrative Judges with one judge elected from each of the eight circuits for a two-year term. The Chairperson of the Conference is elected by the membership to a two-year term. The following represents some of the significant matters considered by the Conference

in its five meetings conducted in Fiscal Year 1996.

1. Implementation of CH 11 (HB 823) Juvenile Causes - Children in Need of Assistance - Hearings - Permanency Plans of Reunification - Form

Effective October 1, 1995, Chapter 11, Acts of 1995, requires courts to give specific notice to parents in all CINA cases; the Conference approved the draft form provided by staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the aforementioned was directed to see to its appropriate distribution.

2. Assessment of \$10 Filing Fee Against Respondents in Domestic Violence Cases

A motion was passed unanimously to adopt the same policy as the District Court and not to assess costs to respondents in domestic violence cases.

3. Domestic Violence Protective Order

It was unanimously adopted by the Conference that in all instances in which spousal protection against abuse is ordered, that the standard protective order form be used notwithstanding a consent order.

4. Family Division Legislation

The Conference opposed the concept of a distinct family division within the circuit courts for a number of reasons including the creation of an unnecessary level of additional bureaucracy within the Judiciary that would divert limited State resources best committed to social and educational programs in support of families in crisis. The Conference proposed that the General Assembly defer consideration until the Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts issued its findings and recommendations.

5. Drug Testing

The Conference met with the Division of Parole and Probation to ensure that court-ordered drug testing would be completed with specified frequency and that judges would receive timely reports from the Division.

6. Rule 1227 - Judicial Conduct

The Conference proposed specific language to the Rules Committee that included a definition of what does and what does not constitute misconduct in office and suggested that language similar to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals be adopted regarding a complaint of judicial misconduct.

Administrative Judges Committee of the District Court

The Administrative Judges Committee of the District Court, unlike its counterpart, the Conference of Circuit Judges, was not established by rule of the Court of Appeals, but arose almost inherently from the constitutional and statutory provisions which created the District Court in 1971.

Under Article IV of the Maryland Constitution and the implementing legislation in the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, the District Court is a single, statewide entity. The Chief Judge is responsible for the maintenance, administration, and operation of the District Court at all of its locations throughout the State, with constitutional accountability to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The administrative judges in each of the District Court's twelve districts are in turn responsible to the Court's Chief Judge for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the District Court in their respective districts.

To enable these thirteen constitutional administrators to speak with one voice, the Chief Judge formed the Administrative Judges Committee when the Court began in 1971. In 1978, when Maryland Rule 1207 was amended to provide for election of some of the members of the Conference of Circuit Judges, he provided for the biannual election of five trial judges of the District Court to serve on the Committee with the District Court's twelve administrative judges. The Chief Judge, ex-officio, serves as Chairman of this Committee.

At its quarterly meetings during Fiscal Year 1996, the Committee acted on numerous items. Among the more significant were:

(1) Proposed Administrative Regulation (subsequently adopted) forbidding individuals other than peace officers or security officers from bringing handguns on court premises;

(2) Reintroduced legislation to clarify Transportation Article, §16-113(g) regarding court imposed alcohol restrictions on licenses.

(3) Revised various forms affecting the operation of the Court;

(4) Developed a policy in bad check cases, requiring a letter to the Court setting out previous collection efforts before a commissioner would issue charges;

(5) Proposed the decriminalization of nonjailable motor vehicle cases;

(6) Established an ad hoc committee for the purpose of studying library requirements for judges;

(7) Reviewed procedures and made various recommendations concerning Rule changes;

(8) Adopted recommendations of the District Court Committee on Criminal and Motor Vehicle Matters to increase certain preset fines for violation of the Transportation Article;

(9) Reviewed and made recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference and to the General Assembly concerning various bills affecting the operation and administration of the District Court.

*APPOINTMENT,
DISCIPLINE,
AND REMOVAL
OF JUDGES*



Appointment, Discipline, and Removal of Judges



Under the Maryland Constitution, when a vacancy in a judicial office occurs, or when a new judgeship is created, the Governor normally is entitled to appoint an individual to fill the office.

The Constitution also provides certain basic qualifications for judicial office. These include: Maryland citizenship; residency in Maryland for at least five years and in the appropriate circuit, district or county, for at least six months; registration as a qualified voter; admission to practice law in Maryland; and the minimum age of 30. In addition, a judicial appointee must be selected from those lawyers "who are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom, and sound legal knowledge."

Although the Constitution sets forth these basic qualifications, it provides the Governor with no guidance as to how to exercise this discretion in making judicial appointments. Maryland governors have themselves filled that gap, however, by establishing Judicial Nominating Commissions.

Judicial Nominating Commissions

Before 1971, Maryland governors exercised their powers to appoint judges subject only to such advice as a particular governor might wish to obtain from bar associations, legislators, lawyers, influential politicians, or others. Because of dissatisfaction with this process, as well as concern with other aspects of judicial selection and reten-

tion procedures in Maryland, the Maryland State Bar Association for many years pressed for the adoption of some form of what is generally known as "merit selection" procedures.

In 1970, these efforts bore fruit when former Governor Marvin Mandel, by Executive Order, established a statewide Judicial Nominating Commission to propose nominees for appointment to the appellate courts, and eight regional Trial Court Nominating Commissions to perform the same function with respect to trial court vacancies. These nine commissions began operations in 1971. However, in 1988, the Judicial Nominating Commissions were restructured to allow each county with a population of 100,000 or more to have its own Trial Courts Nominating Commission. That restructuring resulted in fourteen trial court commissions, known as Commission Districts, as well as an Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission. Since that time, a fifteenth Commission District was added in Charles County as a result of increased population in that jurisdiction. Each judicial vacancy filled pursuant to the Governor's appointing power is filled from a list of nominees submitted by a Nominating Commission.

As presently structured, under an Executive Order issued by Governor Parris N. Glendening, effective May 16, 1995, a sixteenth Trial Courts Nominating Commission has been added. That Commission District is comprised of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties. The sixteen trial courts commissions consist of six lawyer

members, four of whom are elected by other lawyers within designated geographical areas and two appointed by the Governor; six lay members appointed by the Governor; and a chairperson, who may be either a lawyer or a lay person, appointed by the Governor. As a result of the Governor's Executive Order and the restructuring of the appellate circuits, the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission is now comprised of eight lawyer members and eight lay members, representing the seven appellate circuits and two at-large positions, and a chairperson. Seven of the lawyer members of the appellate commission are also elected, while the Governor appoints the lay members, one at-large lawyer member, and the chairperson. The Administrative Office of the Courts acts as a secretariat to all commissions and provides them with staff and logistical support.

When a judicial vacancy occurs or is about to occur, the Administrative Office of the Courts notifies the appropriate commission and places an announcement in *The Daily Record*. Notice of the vacancy is also sent to the Maryland State Bar Association and the local bar association. After the filing deadline, the names of the applicants are published in a local newspaper seeking comments from the public prior to the commission meeting.

The Commission then meets and considers the applications and other relevant information, such as recommendations from bar associations or individual citizens. Each candidate is interviewed either by

Judicial Nominating Commission Statistics
Judicial Vacancies and Nominees from Fiscal Year 1988 to Fiscal Year 1996

		Court of Appeals	Court of Special Appeals	Circuit Courts	District Court	TOTAL
FY 1988	Vacancies	0	1	7	6	14 ^a
	Applicants	0	15	57	60	132
	Nominees	0	6	20	24	50
FY 1989	Vacancies	0	0	13	14	27 ^b
	Applicants	0	0	101	172	273
	Nominees	0	0	36	48	84
FY 1990	Vacancies	1	1	12	9	23 ^c
	Applicants	6	16	83	99	204
	Nominees	0	5	43	28	76
FY 1991	Vacancies	2	3	10	16	31 ^d
	Applicants	18	33	53	197	301
	Nominees	7	12	21	59	99
FY 1992	Vacancies	0	0	10	5	15 ^e
	Applicants	0	0	48	49	97
	Nominees	0	0	27	15	42
FY 1993	Vacancies	0	1	5	5	11 ^f
	Applicants	0	19	48	77	144
	Nominees	0	6	9	23	38
FY 1994	Vacancies	1	1	15	9	26 ^g
	Applicants	6	10	53	164	333
	Nominees	3	4	33	44	84
FY 1995	Vacancies	0	1	12	9	22 ^h
	Applicants	0	6	107	125	238
	Nominees	0	5	35	36	76
FY 1996	Vacancies	0	1	19	7	27 ⁱ
	Applicants	0	12	95	70	177
	Nominees	0	4	34	24	62

NOTE: Because of the pooling arrangements available under the Executive Order since Fiscal Year 1981, the number of applicants and nominees may be somewhat understated. The numbers given in the chart do not include individuals whose names were available for consideration by the Governor pursuant to the pooling arrangement.

^a One vacancy that occurred in FY 88 was not filled until FY 89.

^b One vacancy that occurred in FY 89 was not filled until FY 90.

^c Four vacancies that occurred in FY 90 were not filled until FY 91. A meeting for one District vacancy was not held until FY 91.

^d Four vacancies that occurred in FY 91 were not filled until FY 92. Meetings for three vacancies that occurred in FY 91 were held in FY 92.

^e At the close of FY 92, a meeting had not been held for one District Court and four circuit court vacancies. Several vacancies were still awaiting appointments.

^f At the close of the fiscal year, a meeting had not been held for one circuit court and one District Court vacancy. Several vacancies were still awaiting appointments.

^g There were two vacancies still awaiting appointments at the close of FY 94. Additionally, the meeting for one FY 94 vacancy was held at the beginning of FY 95.

^h At the close of the fiscal year, meetings had not been held for eleven vacancies. Additionally, two vacancies were readvertised with meetings scheduled to be held during FY 96. Two vacancies for which meetings were held during the fiscal year were awaiting appointments.

ⁱ There was one vacancy still awaiting an appointment at the close of the year.

Judicial Nominating Commissions as of September 27, 1996

APPELLATE

Augustus F. Brown, Esq. James R. DeJullis James W. Densford Susan R. Gelman Jane B. Lowe Amy Schwab Owens	Albert D. Brault, Esq., Chair Midgett S. Parker, Esq. Roger A. Perkins, Esq. Charles W. Pinkney Benjamin Rosenberg, Esq. Pamela B. Sorota, Esq.	Rosetta M. Stith, Ph.D. Kenneth R. Taylor, Jr. Roger W. Titus, Esq. Lynn F. Weinberg, Esq. Peter Ayers Wimbrow, III, Esq.
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TRIAL COURTS

Commission District 1 (Somerset, Wilcomco, and Worcester Counties)

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the full Commission or by the Commission panels. After discussion of the candidates, the Commission prepares a list of those it deems to be "legally and professionally most fully qualified" for judicial office. This list, which is forwarded to the Governor, is prepared by secret written ballot. No Commission may vote unless at least 10 of its 13 members are present. An applicant may be included on the list if he or she obtains a majority of votes of the Commission members present at a voting session. Under the Executive Order, a pooling system is used. Under this system, persons nominated for appointment to a particular court level are automatically submitted again to the Governor, along with any additional nominees, for new vacancies on that particular court that occur within 12 months of the date of initial nomination. The Governor is bound by the Executive Order to make an appointment from either the Commission list or the list of nominees who are in the pool.

There were twenty-seven vacancies for judgeships during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 22.7 percent over the previous year's total of twenty-two judicial vacancies. The vacancies included one from the Court of Special Appeals, nineteen from the circuit courts and seven from the District Court. Elevation of judges to higher court levels, retirements and expiration of terms of judges on the circuit courts were the primary reasons for the vacancies. Comparative statistics with respect to vacancies, including the number of applicants and nominees, are reflected on the accompanying table. It should be noted that the table does not reflect the pooling arrangements outlined above. The table provides statistics for only new applicants and nominees.

At the time of this writing, appointments had been made to

twenty-six of the vacancies, leaving one District Court vacancy to be filled during Fiscal Year 1997. The vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals was filled by an attorney from the private sector. Appointments to the circuit courts included six private attorneys, two attorneys from the public sector, and four judges from the District Court bench. The remaining seven circuit court vacancies were filled by incumbent judges whose terms had expired. The six District Court appointments made thus far include five attorneys from the public sector and one private attorney.

Removal and Discipline of Judges

Judges of the appellate courts run periodically in noncompetitive elections. This process is often referred to as "running on their record." A judge who does not receive a majority of the votes cast in such an election is removed from office. Judges from the circuit courts of the counties and Baltimore City must run periodically in regular contested elections. If a judge is challenged in such an election and the challenger wins, the judge is removed from office. District Court judges do not participate in elections, but face Senate reconfirmation every ten years. A District Court judge who is not reconfirmed by the Senate is removed from office. In addition, there are from six to seven other methods that may be employed to remove a judge from office:

1. The Governor may remove a judge "on conviction in a court of law for incompetency, willful neglect of duty, misbehavior in office, or any other crime...."

2. The Governor may remove a judge on the "address of the General Assembly" if two-thirds of each House concur in the address, and if

the accused has been notified of the charges against him and has had an opportunity to make his defense.

3. The General Assembly may remove a judge by two-thirds vote of each House, and with the Governor's concurrence, by reason of "physical or mental infirmity...."

4. The General Assembly may remove a judge through the process of impeachment.

5. The Court of Appeals may remove a judge upon recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.

6. Upon conviction of receiving a bribe in order to influence a judge in the performance of official duties, the judge is "forever ... disqualified for holding any office of trust or profit in this State" and thus presumably removed from office.

7. Article XV, § 2 of the Constitution, adopted in 1974, may provide another method to remove elected judges. It provides for automatic suspension of an "elected official of the State" who is convicted or enters a nolo plea for a crime which is a felony or which is a misdemeanor related to his public duties and involves moral turpitude. If the conviction becomes final, the officer is automatically removed from office.

Despite the availability of other methods, only the fifth procedure has actually been used within recent memory. The use of this method involves an analysis and recommendation by the Commission on Judicial Disabilities. Since this Commission also has the power to recommend discipline less severe than removal, it is useful to examine that body.

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established by constitutional amendment in 1966 and strengthened in 1970. Its powers were further clarified in a 1974 constitutional amendment. A major revision to Maryland Rule 1227 occurred in 1995. At the time this report was compiled, a constitutional amendment that would, among other things, add four additional lay members to the Commission, is slated to go before the voters in November, 1996.

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities serves the public in a variety of ways. Its primary function is to receive, investigate, and act on complaints against members of the Maryland Judiciary. Generally, it meets once a month, but will meet via telephone conference calls or call a special meeting as necessary. Formal complaints must be in writing and under affidavit, but no particular form is required. In addition, numerous individuals write or call expressing dissatisfaction with a judge or about the outcome of a case or some judicial ruling. While some of these complaints may not come technically within the Commission's jurisdiction, the complainants are afforded an opportunity to express their feelings and frequently are informed, for the first time, of their right to appeal. Thus, the Commission, in an informal fashion, offers an ancillary, though vital, service to members of the public.

The Commission receives complaints directly and has requested that the Governor's office forward complaints which it receives within the Commission's jurisdiction. Complaints are docketed as either formal complaints or miscellaneous complaints. Formal complaints are those that meet the requirements of Maryland Rule

1227, including the complainant filing the required affidavit under the penalties of perjury. Each formal complaint receives a docket number and is investigated by the Commission's Investigative Counsel in accordance with Maryland Rules 1227-1227G. Miscellaneous complaints received by the Commission are also given separate docket numbers. Persons who file miscellaneous complaints are informed of the requirements and procedures necessary for their complaint to be handled as a formal complaint under Maryland Rule 1227. They are provided as well with the required language to be used in the affidavit. If an individual initially files a miscellaneous complaint, but later files the required affidavit, then the complaint is converted to a formal complaint and is separately numbered. Regardless of whether the Commission has received and docketed the complaint as either a formal or miscellaneous complaint, it undergoes a review by the Investigative Counsel including reviewing of hearing transcripts, if appropriate.

Having received a complaint against a member of the Judiciary, the Commission's Investigative Counsel conducts a preliminary investigation to determine whether to recommend to the Commission that formal proceedings should be initiated, after which a hearing may be held regarding the judge's alleged misconduct or disability. If, as a result of these hearings, the Commission, by a majority vote of the full Commission and by clear and convincing evidence, may dismiss the case, issue a public reprimand or decide that a judge should be retired, removed or censured. In the latter instances, it recommends that course of action to the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The Court of Appeals may dismiss the case or order a different (either more or less

severe) discipline of the judge than the Commission recommended.

The Commission also has several available disciplinary options that do not require a public hearing. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 1227D, the Commission may issue a private reprimand to a judge or enter into a deferred discipline agreement with the judge. In both cases, the complainant is notified of that disposition. Additionally, the Commission can dismiss the complaint, but accompany the dismissal with a warning against future sanctionable conduct. A dismissal with a warning is not considered under the Rules, however, to be a reprimand, nor does it constitute discipline.

During Fiscal Year 1996, the Commission considered 129 written complaints (86 formal complaints and 43 miscellaneous complaints), an increase of 56 over the prior fiscal year. Of the 129 complaints, 9 were initiated by practicing attorneys, 23 by inmates, 1 by a judge currently on the bench, 2 on the Commission on Judicial Disabilities' own initiative, and the remaining 94 by members of the general public. Some complaints were directed simultaneously against more than one judge and sometimes a single jurist was the subject of multiple complaints. Complaints against Circuit Court judges totaled 87; 30 complaints were made against District Court judges; 1 complaint was received against an Orphans' Court judge, and 1 against a judge on the Court of Special Appeals. Ten (10) complaints were made about Masters, U.S. judges, and others over whom the Commission has no jurisdiction.

This fiscal year, litigation over family law matters (divorce, alimony, custody, visitation) prompted 44 complaints, criminal cases (including traffic violations) accounted for 46, and the remainder resulted from other civil litigation or the al-

leged prejudice or improper demeanor of a judge.

During Fiscal Year 1996, the Commission conducted 3 public hearings as a result of formal charges of alleged sanctionable conduct by members of the Maryland Judiciary. After a 1 day hearing, the Commission issued a public reprimand to a District Court judge. After a 3 day hearing, the Commission recommended to the Court of Appeals that that same District Court judge be removed from the bench as a result of a second complaint. In the third case, after a 2 day hearing, the Commission, by a 5-2 vote, dismissed allegations of sanctionable conduct

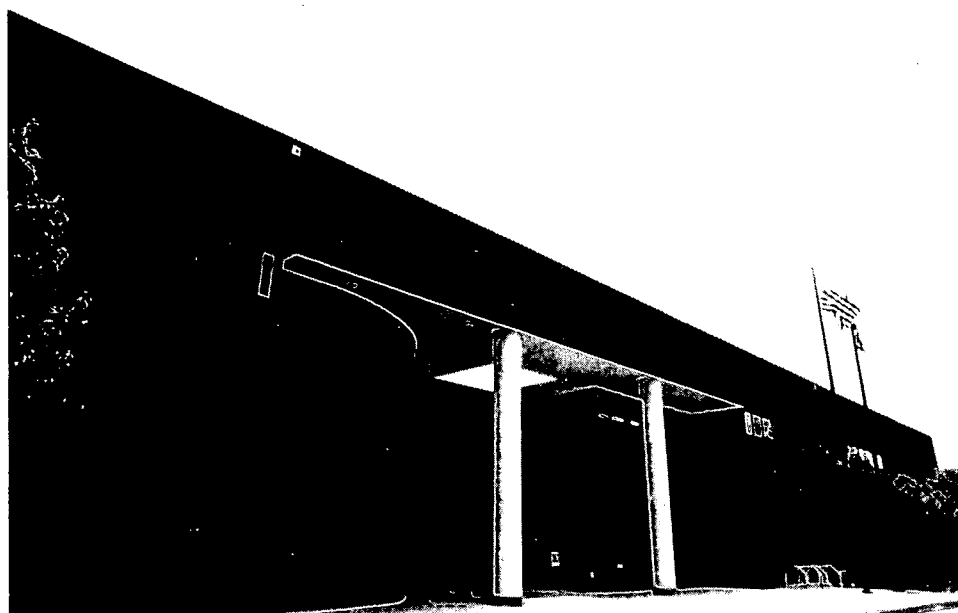
against a circuit court judge. Each case was decided and explained in a written decision.

The Commission also issued 1 private reprimand and at least 2 complaints were dismissed with a warning to the judge against future sanctionable conduct. Several cases still remain open pending further investigation or receipt of additional information.

The vast majority of the complaints received and considered in Fiscal Year 1996 were dismissed because the allegations set forth in the complaints were either found to be unsubstantiated, or the conduct complained about did not constitute a breach of judicial ethics.

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 1227G(b)(3), the Commission serves another function. It supplies judicial nominating commissions with confidential information concerning reprimands or pending charges against those judges seeking nomination and appointment to other judicial office.

The seven Commission members are appointed by the Governor and hail from different areas of Maryland. Members include four judges, one from the Court of Special Appeals, one from the District Court and two from the circuit courts; two members of the bar, each with substantial years of experience; and one lay person.



*District Court/Multi-Service
Center
District 10
Howard County
Ellicott City, Maryland*

1996 LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE COURTS





1996 Legislation Affecting The Courts

This summary touches on some of the measures enacted or killed during the 1996 Regular Session of the General Assembly. A more detailed analysis may be obtained from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judges

New Judgeships

A total of six new judgeships were authorized. Chapter 15 will add, as of July 1, 1996, one District Court judgeship in Baltimore City and one in Anne Arundel County. Chief Judge Sweeney had testified that the judges would be shared with the District Court in Baltimore County as well.

Chapter 148 will add four judges to the Baltimore City Circuit Court, with two created on October 1, 1996, and two on July 1, 1997.

Compensation

The Judicial Compensation Commission's report, as amended by the General Assembly, Joint Resolutions 1 and 2, provide that, as of October 1, 1996, judicial salaries will be as follows:

Court of Appeals

Chief Judge	\$124,500
Associate Judge	\$107,300

Court of Special Appeals

Chief Judge	\$103,000
Associate Judge	\$100,300

Circuit Court

\$ 96,500

District Court

Chief Judge	\$100,300
Associate Judge	\$ 89,200

For Fiscal Year 1997, the salaries include the general salary increase, if any, allowed other State employees.

Ex Officio Memberships

Chapter 341 eliminates and reorganizes a number of entities, including the 12 current Public Defender district advisory boards. These boards will be consolidated into 4 regional advisory boards, for "improvement of communication and the need for standardization of decisions concerning fee disputes". The current boards each includes a trial judge. Under Chapter 341, members are to be either active lawyers or trial judges appointed by the Governor.

Jurisdiction

Chapter 360 will abolish the "year and a day" rule, allowing prosecution for murder or manslaughter committed on or after October 1, 1996, without regard to the time between the act or omission causing death and the death.

Companion measures, Chapters 595 and 596, make a number of changes in out-of-home placements of children. Except in Montgomery County, a juvenile court will have exclusive original jurisdiction over proceedings initiated on or after October 1, 1996, for termination of parental rights or adoption of a child in need of assistance (CINA). A hearing to review a permanency plan will have to be held within 10 months after a CINA disposition, in order for a court to

make specific, enumerated determinations such as services for transition to independent living by a child age 16 or older. Petitions to terminate parental rights will need to be filed within 30 days after a decision for adoption. Semiannual review of continued commitment and long-term foster care will be required instead of the current, federally mandated 12-month review.

Chapter 198 will, with respect to actions filed in the District Court on or after October 1, 1996, exclude interest and costs from the amount capping jurisdiction in contract and tort actions and matters of attachment before judgment.

Chapter 649 will give the District Court jurisdiction over felonies under the Credit Card Number Protection Act as of October 1, 1996.

Court Administration

Facilities

Chapter 566 extends the time limit for the District Court facilities to be maintained both in Dundalk and Owings Mills in Baltimore County.

Costs

A number of bills relating to court costs were enacted, most related to funding programs for victims of crimes. Chapter 598 extends for Fiscal Year 1997 the \$5 surcharge on jailable vehicle offenses and other crimes and the limit on waiver of court costs. Chapter 623 repeals the termina-

tion date on the surcharge on non-jailable vehicle offenses, for purposes of funding the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the Victims of Crime Fund. Thus, all crimes continue to be subject to a surcharge: \$3 for non-jailable vehicle offenses and \$5 for all other crimes. Identical measures, Chapters 587 and 588, increase District Court costs in parking, impoundment, and criminal cases from \$15 to \$20, for funding the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and a newly created Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund.

Chapter 568 increases appearance fees in Baltimore City, for the support of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar.

Appeals

Chapter 586 will allow surrender of leased property within 4, rather than 2, days and similarly increases the appeal time.

Criminal Law

The Article 27 Revision Committee, chaired by Joseph Murphy, Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, proposed a number of measures. Chapter 632 revises the assault laws, in a manner similar to the revision of the burglary laws last year. Among the changes are the consolidation of such crimes as mayhem and maiming into assault offenses and the increase, from misdemeanor to felony, of a number of attempts.

Other measures of the Committee to create District Court offenses for crimes such as assault, possession of marijuana, theft, bad checks and credit card offenses failed.

Family Law

In addition to the jurisdictional and procedural changes affecting child placement (see Chapters 595 and 596 described above), Chapter 552 will overrule *In re Guardianship 3155* (CSA, 94-776; filed 2/8/95) by allowing a child placement agency or court to establish joint guardianship with a caregiver, who could consent to medical care and make other decisions but could not consent to adoption or long term care short of adoption. A court also could dispense with reports, notices, and annual review in cases of long term placement.

Judges could see more foreign domestic violence orders in light of Chapter 615, which implements the United States Constitutional and statutory requirements for full faith and credit of foreign protective orders and requires a law enforcement officer to arrest an individual believed to be in violation of a current order if the person seeking relief has filed an authenticated order with a Maryland trial court or displays an authenticated order to the officer. Foreign orders filed with a Maryland trial court are to be forwarded to law enforcement, as with Maryland orders, for entry into Maryland Interagency Law Enforcement System.

A measure to establish a family division, House Bill 18, failed again this year. The budget, however, allocates Baltimore City's share of a \$750,000 appropriate for family services to a "pilot" project.

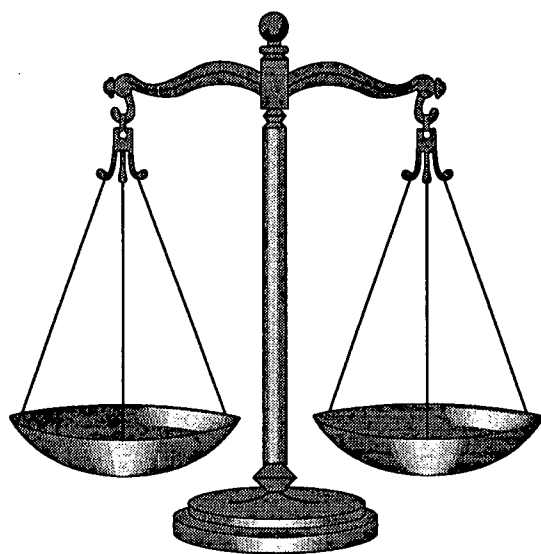
The budget also includes an appropriation for funding of judicial masters in circuit court, subject to a report from the Administrative Office of the Courts before May 15,

1996, establishing a certification of needs for masters.

Criminal Sentencing Study

Chapter 563 created a Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, which includes: Chairman John F. McAuliffe, retired Judge of the Court of Appeals; Howard S. Chasanow, Judge of the Court of Appeals; Joseph H. Kaplan, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Alexander Wright, Jr., Judge of the District Court, 8th District; J. Joseph Curran, Jr., Attorney General; F. Vernon Boozer, Delores G. Kelley, and Christopher J. McCabe, Senators; James M. Harkins, Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., and Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Delegates; Andrew L. Sonner, State's Attorney for Montgomery County; Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Stephen E. Harris, Public Defender; Judith R. Catterton, Esq.; Chief Walter E. Chase, Sr.; LaMonte E. Cooke; Roberta Roper; and Dr. Charles F. Wellford. The Commission is charged with developing a correctional population simulation model and with recommending whether descriptive or guided discretion sentencing guidelines should be used, whether to retain parole and good time credits, whether to increase the minimum time served for parole eligibility and whether to have alternative sentencing options. The Commission was to begin meeting no later than June 14, 1996, with an interim report by December 31, 1996, and ceases to exist on September 30, 1997.

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Definitions



Adoption, Guardianship

This includes all adoptions and guardianships including regular adoptions, guardianship with right to adoption, and guardianship with right to consent to long-term care short of adoption. Guardianship of incompetents are reported in "Other General".

Adult

A person who is 18 years old or older charged with an offense relating to juveniles to be heard in Juvenile Court. (See § 3-831 of Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.)

Appeal

The resorting to a higher court to review, rehear, or retry a decision of a tribunal below. This includes appeals to the circuit court, the Court of Special Appeals, and the Court of Appeals.

Appeals to the circuit courts include:

1. Record—The judge's review of a written or electronic recording of the proceedings in the District Court.
2. De Novo—The retrial of an entire case initially tried in the District Court.
3. Administrative Agency—Appeals from decisions rendered by administrative agencies. For example:

- Department of Personnel
- County Commissioner

- Department of Taxation and Assessments
- Employment Security
- Funeral Director
- Liquor License Commissioners
- Physical Therapy
- State Comptroller (Sales Tax, etc.)
- State Motor Vehicle Authority
- Supervisors of Elections
- Workmen's Compensation Commission
- Zoning Appeals
- Any other administrative body from which an appeal is authorized.

Application for Leave to Appeal

Procedural method by which a petitioner seeks leave of the Court of Special Appeals to grant an appeal. When it is granted, the matter addressed is transferred to the direct appeal docket of the Court for customary briefing and argument. Maryland statutes and Rules of Procedure permit applications in matters dealing with post conviction, inmate grievances, appeals from final judgment following guilty pleas, and denial of or grant of excessive bail in habeas corpus proceedings.

Case

A matter having a unique docket number; includes original

and reopened (post judgment) matters.

Caseload

The total number of cases filed or pending with a court during a specific period of time. Cases may include all categories of matters (law, equity, juvenile, and criminal). Note: After July 1, 1984, law and equity were merged into a new civil category.

C.I.N.A. (Child in Need of Assistance)

Refers to a child who needs the assistance of the court because:

1. The child is mentally handicapped or
2. Is not receiving ordinary and proper care and attention, and
3. The parents, guardian, or custodian are unable or unwilling to give proper care and attention.

C.I.N.S. (Child in Need of Supervision)

Refers to a child who requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, ungovernableness, or behavior that would endanger himself or others. Also included in this category is the commission of an offense applicable only to children.

Condemnation

The process by which property of a private owner is taken for public use without the owner's con-

sent but upon the award and payment of just compensation.

Contested Confessed Judgment

The act of a debtor in permitting judgment to be entered by a creditor immediately upon filing of a written statement by the creditor to the court.

Contracts

A case involving a dispute over oral or written agreements between two or more parties.

Breaches of verbal or written contracts.

Landlord/tenant appeals from District Court.

Delinquency

Commission of an act by a juvenile which would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Disposition

Entry of final judgment in a case.

District Court—Contested

Only applies to civil, a case that has gone to trial and both parties (plaintiff and defendant) appear.

District Court Criminal Case

Single defendant charged per single incident. It may include multiple charges arising from the same incident.

District Court Filing

The initiation of an action or case in the District Court.

Divorce, Nullity

A proceeding to dissolve a marriage. Original filings under this category include divorce a vinculo matrimonii, divorce a mensa et thoro, and annulment. A reopened case under this category includes hearings held after final decree or other termination in the original case. A reopened case may involve review of matters other than the divorce itself as long as the original case was a divorce. (Examples of the latter may be a contempt proceeding for nonpayment of support, noncompliance with custody agreement, modification of support, custody, etc.)

Docket

Formal record of court proceedings.

Filing

Formal commencement of a judicial proceeding by submitting the necessary papers pertaining to it. Original filing under one docket number and subsequent reopenings under the same number are counted as separate filings.

Fiscal Year

The period of time from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the next. For example: July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996.

Hearings

- Criminal—Any activity occurring in the courtroom, or in the judge's chambers on the record and/or in the presence of a clerk, is considered a hearing, except trials or any hearing that does not involve a defendant.

Examples of Hearings in Criminal

- Arraignment
- Discovery motion
- Guilty plea
- Motion to quash
- Motion to dismiss
- Motion for change of venue
- Motion to continue
- Motion to suppress
- Motion to sever
- Nolo contendere
- Not guilty with agreed statement of facts
- Sentence modifications
- Violation of probation
- Civil—A presentation either before a judge or before a master empowered to make recommendations, on the record or in the presence of a clerk or court reporter, for purposes other than final determination of the facts of the case. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

Examples of Hearings in Civil

- Motion to compel an answer to an interrogatory
- Motion ne recipiatur
- Motion for judgment by default
- Demurrer
- Motion for summary judgment
- Motion to vacate, open, or modify confession of judgment

— Preliminary motions presented in court, including motions for continuance

— Determination of alimony pendente lite, temporary custody, etc., in a divorce case

— Contempt or modification hearings

- Juvenile—A presentation before a judge, master, or examiner on the record in the presence of a clerk or court reporter. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

Examples of Hearings in Juvenile

— Preliminary motions presented in court

— Arraignment or preliminary inquiry

— Detention (if after filing of petition)

— Merits or adjudication

— Disposition

— Restitution

— Waiver

— Review

— Violation of probation

Indictment

The product of a grand jury proceeding against an individual.

Information

Written accusation of a crime prepared by the State's Attorney's Office.

Jury Trial Prayer-Motor Vehicle

A request for trial by jury in the circuit court for a traffic charge normally heard in the District Court. To pray a jury trial in a motor vehicle case, the sentence must be for more than six months.

Jury Trial Prayer-Other (Criminal)

A request for a trial by jury in the circuit court for charges normally heard in the District Court, except traffic charges or nonsupport.

Miscellaneous Docket

Established and maintained primarily as a method of recording and identifying those preliminary proceedings or collateral matters before the Court of Appeals other than direct appeals.

Motor Torts

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from automobile accidents. (This does not include boats, lawn mowers, etc., nor does it include consent cases settled out of court.)

Motor Vehicle Appeals

An appeal of a District Court verdict in a traffic charge.

Nolle Prosequi

A formal entry upon the record by the plaintiff in a civil suit, or the State's Attorney in a criminal case, to no longer prosecute the case.

Nonsupport

A criminal case involving the charge of nonsupport.

Original Filing

See "Filing."

Other Appeals (Criminal)

An appeal of a District Court verdict except one arising from a traffic charge or nonsupport.

Other Domestic Relations

Matters related to the family other than divorce, guardianship, adoption, or paternity. Examples of this category include support, custody, and U.R.E.S.A. cases.

Other Civil/Other Equity

This category includes, among other things, injunctions, change of name, foreclosure, and guardianship of incompetent persons.

Other Law

This category includes, among other things, conversion, detinue, ejectment, issues from Orphans' Court, attachments on original process, and mandamus.

Other Torts

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from:

- Assault and battery—an unlawful force to inflict bodily injury upon another.
- Certain attachments.
- Consent tort.

- False imprisonment—the plaintiff is confined within boundaries fixed by the defendant for some period of time.
- Libel and slander—a defamation of character.
- Malicious prosecution—without just cause an injury was done to somebody through the means of a legal court proceeding.
- Negligence—any conduct falling below the standards established by law for the protection of others from unreasonable risk of harm.

Paternity

A suit to determine fatherhood responsibility of a child born out of wedlock.

Pending Case

Case in which no final disposition has occurred.

Post Conviction

Proceeding instituted to set aside a conviction or to correct a

sentence that was unlawfully imposed.

Reopened Filing

The first hearing held on a case after a final judgment on the original matters has been entered.

Stet

Proceedings, are stayed; one of the ways a case may be terminated.

Termination

Same as "Disposition."

Trials

- Criminal

Court Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant where one or more witnesses has been sworn.

Jury Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to

decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant, where the jury has been sworn.

- Civil

Court Trial—A contested hearing on any one or all merits of the case, presided over by a judge, to decide in favor of either party where testimony is given by one or more persons. Note: "Merits" is defined as all pleadings prayed by the plaintiff in the original petition that created the case. Divorce, custody, child support, etc., are examples that might be considered merits in a civil case.

Jury Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide in favor of either party where the jury has been sworn.

Unreported Category

A case that has been reported but not specifically identified as to case type by the reporting court.

APPENDIX A

ADA COORDINATORS



ADA Coordinators



The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the ADA Coordinators for the Maryland State Judiciary are as follows:

Court of Appeals

Alexander L. Cummings, Esq.
Clerk, Court of Appeals
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-3341
TTY: (410) 974-5422

Court of Special Appeals

Leslie Gradet, Esq.
Clerk, Court of Special Appeals
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-3646
TTY: (410) 974-5424

Administrative Office of the Courts

Anne-Marie Baikauskas
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-2998*

District Court Commissioners

David W. Weissert
District Court Building
Rowe Blvd. & Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-3481*

District Court Headquarters

Nancy E. Johnson
District Court Building
Rowe Blvd. & Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-2111*

Allegany County Circuit Court

W. Stephen Young, P.E.
County Engineer
County Office Building
701 Kelly Road, Suite 242
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 777-5933
TTY: (301) 777-5825

Allegany County - District Court

Kathleen M. Stafford
Administrative Clerk
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 777-2105*
TTY: (301) 777-5825

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court

Robert G. Wallace
Courthouse
P. O. Box 71
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 222-1451
TTY: (410) 222-1429

Anne Arundel County - District Court

Rebecca A. Hoppa
Administrative Clerk
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-3977
TTY: (410) 974-5066

Baltimore City Circuit Court

Mary B. Widomski
Room 200 Courthouse East
111 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 396-5188
TTY: (410) 333-4389

Baltimore City - District Court

Lonnie P. Ferguson
Administrative Clerk
5800 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 764-8951
TTY: (410) 358-5360

Baltimore County Circuit Court

Peter J. Lally
Circuit Court Administrator
County Courts Building
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-2687
TTY: (410) 887-3018

Baltimore County - District Court

Joseph T. O'Melia
Administrative Clerk
120 E. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 321-3361
TTY: (410) 321-2002

Calvert County Circuit Court

Patricia B. Dekdebrun
Circuit Court Chambers No. 1
Courthouse
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-1600 ext. 259*
(410) 855-1243 ext. 259*

Calvert County - District Court

Violet Owens
Administrative Clerk
200 East Charles Street
P. O. Box 20646
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 932-3278*

Caroline County Circuit Court

Brian Ebling
Director, Emergency Management
P. O. Box 151
Denton, MD 21629
(410) 479-1811
TTY: (410) 479-4200

Caroline County - District Court

Grace D. Achuff
Administrative Clerk
170 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-0720*

Carroll County Circuit Court

Bobbie L. Erb
Court Administrator
Historic Courthouse
Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 857-8118*

Carroll County - District Court

Nancy E. Mueller
Administrative Clerk
3451 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 461-0217*

Cecil County Circuit Court

B. Elaine Mahan
Courthouse
129 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-5316*

Cecil County - District Court

Grace D. Achuff
Administrative Clerk
170 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-0720*

Charles County Circuit Court

Michael T. Mudd
1001 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 932-3440*

Charles County - District Court

Violet Owens
Administrative Clerk
200 Charles Street
P. O. Box 20646
LaPlata, MD 20646
(301) 932-3278*

Dorchester County Circuit Court

Patricia S. Tolley
P.O. Box 583
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 228-6300
TTY: (410) 228-3569

Dorchester County - District Court

Mary E. Kinnamon
Administrative Clerk
310 Gay Street
P.O. Box 547
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 221-2585*

Frederick County Circuit Court

Janet D. Rippeon
100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 694-2563
TTY: (301) 698-0692

Frederick County - District Court

Dixie L. Scholtes
Administrative Clerk
100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 694-2006*

Garrett County Circuit Court

Thomas E. Doyle, Esq.
P. O. Box 289
Oakland, MD 21550
(301) 334-4808*

Garrett County - District Court

Kathleen M. Stafford
Administrative Clerk
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 777-2105*

Harford County Circuit Court

David W. Sewell, Director
Facilities and Operations
29 West Courtland Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 638-3212*
(410) 879-2000 ext. 3212*

Harford County - District Court

E. Carol Sweet
Administrative Clerk
2 South Bond Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 836-4526*

Howard County Circuit Court

John F. Shatto
Court Administrator
Courthouse
8360 Court Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-4851*

Howard County - District Court

Nancy E. Mueller
Administrative Clerk
3451 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 461-0217
TTY: (410) 461-0418

Kent County Circuit Court

Mark Mumford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
103 N. Cross Street
Chestertown, MD 21620-1511
(410) 778-7414
TTY: (410) 778-0608

Kent County - District Court

Grace D. Achuff
Administrative Clerk
170 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-0720*

Montgomery County Circuit Court

Pamela H. Quirk
Court Administrator
Judicial Center
50 Courthouse Square
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 217-7223*

Montgomery County - District Court

Jeffrey L. Ward
Administrative Clerk
27 Courthouse Square
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 279-1189
TTY: (301) 279-1286

Prince George's County Circuit Court

William A. Butler
Deputy Court Administrator
Courthouse, Room 268M
14735 Main Street
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 952-3898
TTY: (301) 952-3925

Prince George's County-District Court

Patricia L. Platt
Administrative Clerk
Courthouse, Bourne Wing, Room 173B
14735 Main Street
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 952-4240
TTY: (301) 952-3719

Queen Anne's County Circuit Court

D. Steven Walls
Director, Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 56
Centreville, MD 21617
(410) 758-0920*

Queen Anne's County - District Court

Grace D. Achuff
Administrative Clerk
170 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-0720*

St. Mary's County Circuit Court

Cynthia A. Brown
Community Services
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650
(301) 475-4631*

St. Mary's County - District Court

Violet Owens
Administrative Clerk
200 Charles Street
P. O. Box 20646
LaPlata, MD 20646
(301) 932-3278*

Somerset County Circuit Court

Lynn F. Cain
P.O. Box 279
Princess Anne, MD 21853
(410) 651-1630*

Somerset County - District Court

Mary E. Kinnamon
Administrative Clerk
310 Gay Street
P.O. Box 547
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 221-2585*

Talbot County Circuit Court

Mary Ann Shortall
Clerk of the Circuit Court
P. O. Box 723
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-2611
TTY: (410) 819-0909

Talbot County - District Court

Grace D. Achuff
Administrative Clerk
170 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 996-0720*

Washington County Circuit Court

Rick L. Hemphill
Administrative Officer
Circuit Court for Washington County
95 West Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 790-7991

Washington County - District Court

Dixie L. Scholtes
Administrative Clerk
100 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 694-2006*

Wicomico County Circuit Court

Gay E. Hommel
P.O. Box 546
Salisbury, MD 21803-0546
(410) 548-4997*

Wicomico County - District Court

Mary E. Kinnamon
Administrative Clerk
310 Gay Street
P.O. Box 547
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 221-2585*

Worcester County Circuit Court

Merrill Lockfaw, Jr.
Maintenance Supervisor
P. O. Box 257
Snow Hill, MD 21863
(410) 632-3766*

Worcester County - District Court

Mary E. Kinnamon
Administrative Clerk
310 Gay Street
P.O. Box 547
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 221-2585*

*May be reached through Maryland Relay Service
(TT/Voice) 800-735-2258



*Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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